

# WORONI

September 11, 1997 • Volume 49 Number 8 • Free

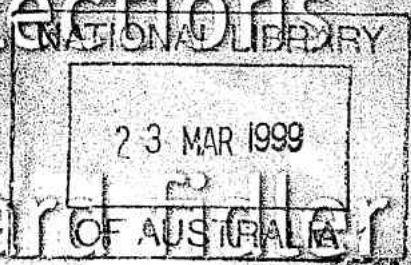
booners

NO  
FAT  
CHICKS

canberra bands

sa elections

richard



TRANS AM

BOONZ

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**19-27 September**

**at The Street Theatre**

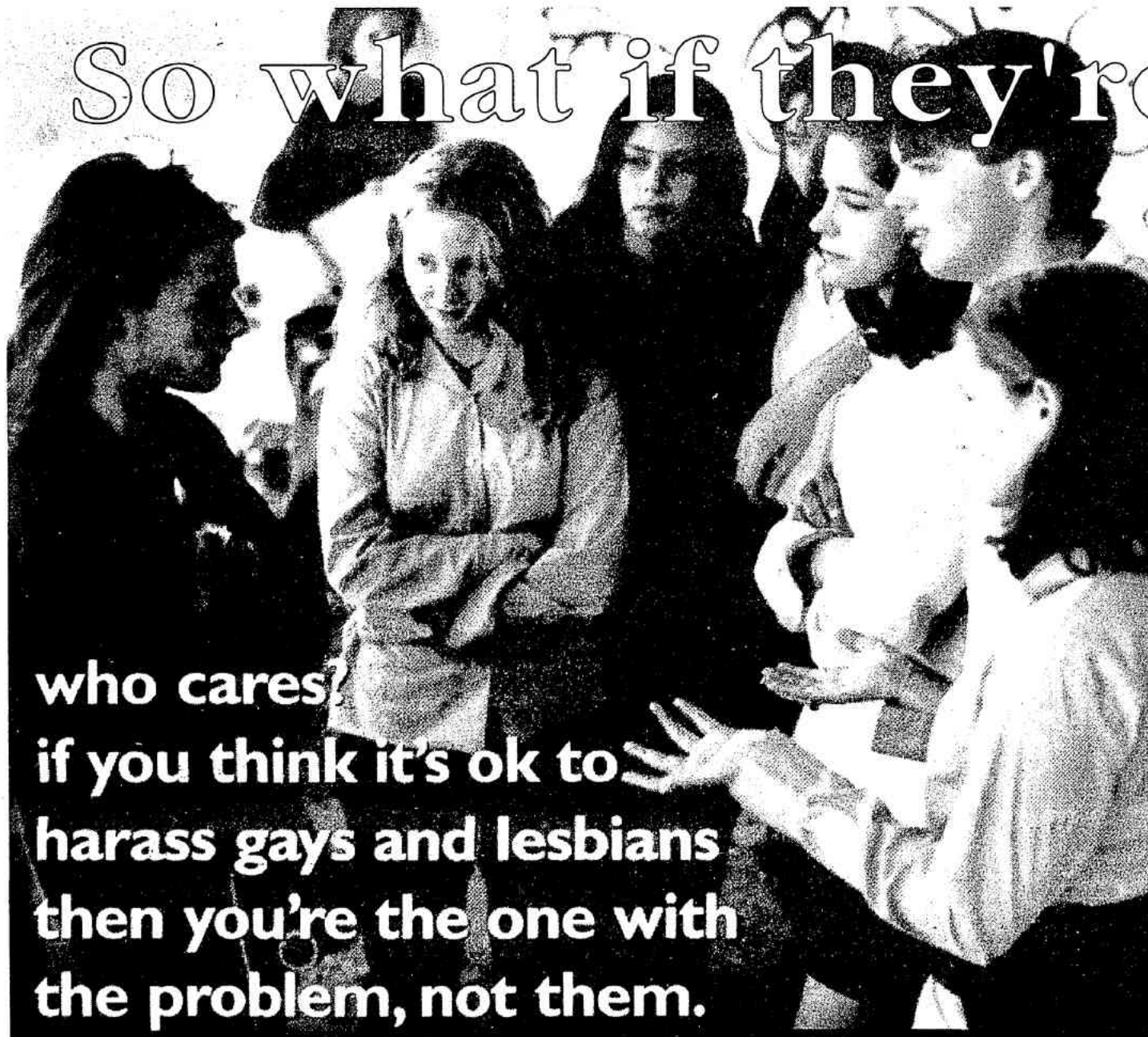
Cut price preview 18 September

**Ticketing**—The Street Theatre—6247 1223

\$27 adult • \$22 concession • \$16 youth (under 26)

*Look out for discount coasters in your favourite café.*

## So what if they're gay?

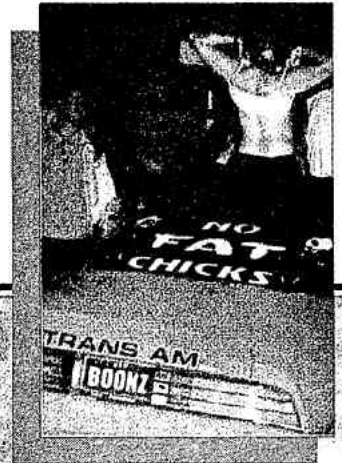


**who cares?  
if you think it's ok to  
harass gays and lesbians  
then you're the one with  
the problem, not them.**

**Violence is violence,  
verbal, physical or  
sexual. And its not on.  
Ever.**

If you are hassling someone because you assume they are different, put yourself in their place - not fun, is it? Homosexual, bisexual and transgendered people deserve the same rights as you to walk around campus without being verbally abused or physically or sexually assaulted.

**For more information,  
or if you have any problems  
with people harassing you, call  
pippa or matt at the sexuality  
dept. on 6279 8514, or you can  
call the anti-violence project on  
1800 627 360.  
Confidentiality guaranteed.**



cover: Summernats: booner culture at its best. Photo: Jason Richardson

**sa elections '97**

**13** Share in the hopes and the dreams of the 1997 Students' Association election candidates, and decide who deserves your vote.

**the thrill of the hunt**

**20** Bush week has been and gone for another year. Find out what actually happened as Pat Brammal and Nick Shaw report on that craazy scav hunt, and Michael Cook takes a look at the violent side of Bush Week.

**boon me up**

**18** Ex-St Eddy's boy Brendan Shanahan heads out to Queanbeyan and takes a look at the finer points of booner culture

# WORONI

## contents

**FIRST UP**

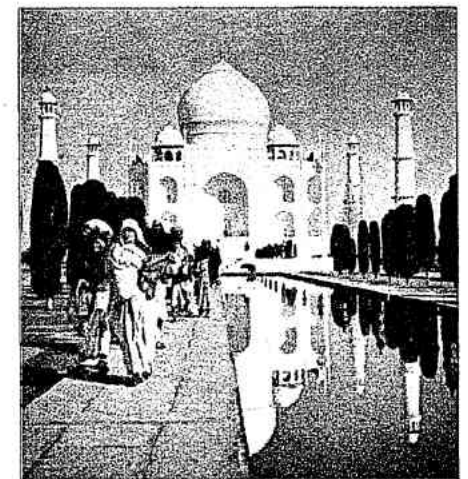
- 4** CALENDAR  
WHAT'S ON IN CANBERRA: the hobbit, the second australian international film festival, burgmann college lecture, the tempest, amnesty appeal
- WORONI SALUTES: capital funland
- CELEBRITY LOOK-ALIKE: doctor who

**LETTERS**

- 6** letters to the editor about welfare funding, expensive bagels, bungled student arrests, one nation, and the smoking ban in the unibar

**NEWS**

- 8** CAMPUS NEWS: arts cuts, the protest rallies, heidi zwar, anti-violence campaign, smoking ban in the unibar, new disability plan, welfare officer in jeopardy
- 10** OPINION: animal liberation, greenhouse effect
- 11** SA REPORTS
- 12** DEBATE: oasis



(above) Indian peasants dine like kings at the Taj Mahal (India). For a review of the Taj Mahal (Canberra) see page 30



(above) Michael Mathieson shaves his legs and gets saddled up for the adventure of a lifetime, p. 29

**LIFESTYLE**

- 29** TRAVEL: bike riding in the uk, drought in indonesia
- 30** FOOD: the taj mahal indian restaurant, home-made pizza
- 31** MONEY: condoms, marijuana

**CULTURE**

- 32** FEATURE: rockin' in the act
- 34** REVIEWS: teenage fanclub, ben folds five, will self, brassed off, austin powers
- 37** SMASH HITS: sugar, neighbours, republican party reptile, wild at heart

**FLIPSIDE**

- 34** PROFILE: richard fidler
- FOOTNOTES: fish out of water
- CLASSIFIEDS

# FIRST UP all in the same

Thursday

11

SEPTEMBER

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

AUGUST							OCTOBER							
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31		
31														

Any plan conceived in moderation must fail when the circumstances are set in extremes.  
— Prince Clemens von Metternich

1997

## Calendar

### SEPTEMBER

- 3-13 *The Hobbit* by Skylark at the Canberra Theatre
- 3-13 *Fo Festival*, 4 plays by Dario Fo & Franca Rame, at the Street Theatre, ph 6247 1223, for tickets
- 5-27 *The Constant Wife*, presented by Canberra REP at Theatre 3
- 11-20 Isben's *Ghosts*, presented by Papermoon Productions at the ANU Arts Centre, \$18, \$10 Students on Tuesday
- 12 Burgmann College Lecture 'Faith in Science', in the Charles Hawker Common room
- 12-19 Exhibition of works by Fiona Hall, ANU Creative Art Fellow, at CSA Gallery
- 13 ANU Open Day
- 16-19 Students' Association elections
- 16-20 Canberra Youth Theatre presents *The Maze*, at Gorman House
- 17-21 Australian International Film Festival 97, at Electric Shadows
- 18-27 Stopera presents *2 Shots* at the Street Theatre
- 19-27 Bell Shakespeare Company presents *The Tempest*, at the Canberra Theatre
- 26 Conferring of Degrees Ceremony, at Llewelyn Hall
- 27 Indy Fest '97 with 20 bands at the Bar

### OCTOBER

- 4 *Tanne* presented by the New Danish Dance Theatre, at the Canberra Theatre
- 8-15 Padma Menon Dance Theatre presents *Laya* at the Canberra Theatre
- 10 Next Gen presents *An Evening with Richard Arnold*, MCC 3, 8pm
- 14-19 Cleanskin Theatre presents *Kindling does for Firewood* at Gorman House Arts Centre (Block C). Tickets: \$10/\$8
- 24 Amnesty International Candle Day



(above) Sam emerges from what he assures us is merely the door of a photographic darkroom. Sure, Sam.

## Celebrity Look-alike

This issue's celebrity look-alike was seen materialising outside the AD Hope building shortly before the start his 2pm anthropology tute. Sam Upritchard initially denied his similarity to Tom Baker's Doctor Who, backing into his cardis-like doorway and disappearing for what seemed a suspiciously long time before emerging with his coat, textbooks, bicycle, shopping trolley, and small robotic dog. When pushed, he stated that he felt he did slightly resemble Gene Kelly, but refused to do a rendition of 'Singing in the Rain' for the *Woroni* staff. Regardless, Sam wins Uni bar tickets to the concert of his choice.

If you or someone you know look like someone famous, come up to the *Woroni* office to WIN.

This issue *Woroni* is also offering a special bonus prize to the person who finds the ANU personality most resembling the figure on the corner of page 35.

## Official cause of death of the ad

### What's On In Canberra

#### CANDLE DAY

Amnesty International needs office volunteers to lay the groundwork for Candle Day, October 24. A few hours a week is all it takes if you would like to help stop human rights abuse all over the world. Phone 6249 8415. If you don't have the spare time now, consider helping Amnesty with the street collection of candle Day. For more info contact Paula Filmer, ACT Branch of Amnesty International Australia, ph 6249 8415, fax 6257 7588, or actaia@ozemail.com.au

#### THE HOBBIT

Tolkien's masterpiece in puppetry, what more could you possibly want? Already winning rave reviews Skylark's production, is a magical tale of elves, golden treasure, fearsome goblins and terrible trolls that leads to a devastating climax. Far over the misty mountains a company of dwarfs, an excitable hobbit named bilbo, and Gandalf the legendary wizard huddle over a secret map. In the dark by a magic light, they plot to raid the treasure hoard guarded by Smaug, the fire breathing dragon. The Hobbit is on at the Canberra Theatre until the 13th of September, tickets \$18 (conc) for matinees and \$23 (conc) evening performances

#### THE TEMPEST

John Bell must have enjoyed the National Summer Shakespeare



(above) Stopera promises to pull bigger (though probably not as well-dressed) audiences for their Canberra season

Festival earlier this year, because he's picked up the tempest theme and run with it. Showing at the Canberra Theatre between the 19th and 27th of September, *The Tempest* — Shakespeare's last, and perhaps greatest play — explodes onto the stage with new vigour and energy. *The Tempest* is a light telling of a mysterious fable, a highly personal and deeply felt meditation on art and life, renunciation and redemption says director Jim Sharman. "As in most fables there is an element of amazement at work and Shakespeare's last play begins with a storm at sea, a catharsis that plunges his characters into a ritual of transformation and revelation. They enter a labyrinth, a maze, an imagined world, an alien land where they undergo a "sea-change/ into something rich and strange."

#### THE MAZE

Canberra Youth Theatre is Australia's oldest running and one of its largest youth theatre companies. *The Maze* is playing in Canberra 16-20 of September

in C-Block at Gorman House. The play deals with teenagers finding an identity within the framework of private and public school systems, religion and a variety of teenage subcultures. *The Maze* presents personal and often confusing issues about sexuality, drug abuse and unsafe sex. Despite the seriousness of the subject matter, the play promises to be a touching and often humorous portrayal of young people on the edge.

#### BURGMANN COLLEGE LECTURE

Dr John Polkinghore, KBE, FRS, former Professor of Mathematical Physics at the University of Cambridge and President of Queen's College, Cambridge will deliver the 1997 Burgmann College Lecture on 'Faith In Science: the relationship between science and religion'. The lecture will given in the Charles Hawker Common Room at Burgmann College on Friday, 12 September at 8pm. Light refreshments will follow. Any inquiries to the Principal, Dr Lew Rushbrook on 6267 5211 or Principal.Burgmann@anu.edu.au



## Capital Funland

The ironically titled "Capital Funland" has become a Canberra institution on a par with the Weston Park maze. Well known as the centre for Canberra's dodgy twelve year old bomber population, this place is so full of people exclaiming "yo brother" (to people who, we might add, usually are their brothers) that you could be quite honestly mistake this underground land of fun with the back lot of a Spike Lee movie.

The Funland experience truly begins when you are met by the friendly service personnel dispensing the change from behind the bullet proof glass. Then, strap yourself in, because you're about to play the shortest game of Daytona you've ever played in your life. The Funland games are notorious for their suspiciously short duration, so the real attraction lies in the infamous air hockey. Air Hockey rules the roost in Funland and all the tough kids know it.

Finally there are the secretive Funland toilets that require the mysterious "key" for entry. The toilets act as a metaphor for the Capital Funland experience — broken, smelly and difficult to obtain entry to. But in the world of fun, once you're in, you're in baby. So Funland, it is for your contributions to Canberra's cultural and sociological landscape that *Woroni* salutes you.

## WORONI

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**this issue's song lyrics:** "WILD WILD WEST" PERFORMED BY ESCAPE CLUB

*woroni* is the official publication of the Australian national university students' association

the opinions expressed in *woroni* are not necessarily those of the editors, students' association or *woroni* staff  
 "People might say Neighbours is just commercial pap but to the people who actually watch it, it means a lot," said a sociologist at UNSW. "Soaps don't really enforce stereotypes and they've become more progressive in recent years." Fine words. But many Australians were switching on to Neighbours because of a slip of a girl and a handsome young fellow whose names had become household words. Their names, of course, were Kylie and Jason."

—Excerpt from "Neighbours: Behind the Scenes" by James Oram

**deadline for next issue:**

September 11

## actor who played Webster: break dancing

### TANNE

Canberra audiences will be treated to the Australian premiere of a stunning theatre ballet based on the life and persona of legendary Danish author Karen Blixen (*Out of Africa*, *Babette's Feast*). *Tanne* received its premiere in April 1994 in Copenhagen, and has since seen some 50 highly acclaimed performances in Denmark. *Tanne* is about the woman, the human being Karen Blixen and her fateful life story. The ballet is not a historical or biographical portrait of an artist, but a modern dance drama, inspired by her fate. *Tanne* is showing one night only at the Canberra Theatre, Saturday October 4 at 8pm.

### NEXT GEN

Next Gen (the ANU Science Fiction Club) presents An Evening with Richard Arnold. He is the world's foremost authority on *Star Trek*. Richard was consultant to Paramount Pictures and Gene Roddenberry's personal assistant. He has worked on the *Star Trek* movies and helped Roddenberry create *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Richard has been a guest of more than 300 convention, and knows many of the *Star Trek* actors personally. Dinner will be



(above) groovy looking puppets in the *Hobbit*

served at Sullivan's at 6pm, for \$15 per head, followed by the presentation; theatre 3 MCC, 8pm for 8.30 start. Tickets \$15 or \$10 concession. For info or tickets phone 6258 9535 (northside), 6231 3584 (southside) or email nextgen@bohm.anu.edu.au

### FESTIVAL OF THE CONTEMPORARY ARTS

In 1997 the Festival of Contemporary Arts 3 will be the sole multi arts Festival run in the national capital. Running from October 9 to 19, at Gorman house, the festival includes theatre, dance, film and exhibitions. There is so much happening that we couldn't possibly fit it all in, but suffice to say it's going to be interesting. The line up includes dances by Padma Menon Dance theatre, and Paige Gordon & Performance Group. The cinema section is titled 'Reel Art' and promises to be a visual roller coaster into the psyche and imagination of Australian and international experimental film makers. For more info hop on-line at <http://www.gormanhouse.com.au>, or call the festival info line on 6249 7780, for tickets call 6247 1223.

### STOPERA

Stopera returns to the Street Theatre this month with *2 Shots*. This young opera company has been described as "fresh,

quirky and jam packed with young gorgeous talent". *2 Shots* is two short operas. In Kurt Weill's 'The Tsar has his photo taken' a gun is set up for a photo shoot. In Viktor Ullmann's 'The Emperor of Atlantis' Death goes on strike in the middle of a war zone. Add to this an orchestra, great singing, and only a \$16 price tag (for those under 26), and you've got the best night at the theatre Canberra's had all year. *Woroni* has 5 double passes to give away to *2 Shots*, to win one turn up at the *Woroni* office (upstairs in the SA) and sing an aria of your choice from the Three Tenors CD. *2 Shots* is on from September 18 to 27, ph 6247 1223 or visit [www.stopera.org.au](http://www.stopera.org.au) for more info.

### 2ND AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The second Australian

International Film Festival is happening in Canberra on the 17-21 September at Electric Shadows. Films include the hilarious English comedy *The Full Monty*, an erotic psychological thriller, *Les Voleurs (Thieves)*, and a film from the infamous surrealist Czech filmmaker, Jan Svankmayer, called *Conspirators of Pleasure*. For session details, check the daily ads in *The Canberra Times*. For ticket information contact Electric Shadows or phone 6201 2989. *Woroni* has a double pass to the festival to give away. Just come into the *Woroni* office and tell us one other film director Wu Tian-Ming has made, other than *The King of Masks* which features in this year's festival.

(left) *Woroni* has 10 double-passes to the Bell Shakespeare's adaption of *The Tempest*. To win one just come into the *Woroni* office and recite us a Shakespearean soliloquy (in costume, of course). We'll either call you a nancy pratt, or give you a ticket.

# LETTERS

waiting for my baby

## Buying out of student welfare

Dear *Woroni*,  
Just when you thought they couldn't sink any lower — now I hear that the university has been refusing to cough up its half of the Welfare Officer's post. Does that mean that the ANU is buying out of student welfare as well as student education? Perhaps it's all just been a big misunderstanding between Peer Group and Selth. Well, I'm sure now that that little problem has been resolved, Peer Group will get the chance to talk to someone with half a fucking brain.

Poor old Terrell, no wonder he keeps on making the wrong decisions — look at the quality of the people he's been taking advice from. Perhaps now all that can change with the shakedown of admin posts? Or do we have to start a public media campaign to get half our measly welfare post?

—BEN CLANCHY

## From one nerd-herder to another

Dear *Woroni*,  
Might I say that Vinegar Tits' anti-ban rave in your last issue was one of the funniest things I have ever read in *Woroni*. That flammable polyester-jumper wearing, nerd-

herding Patrick Mackerras fellow must have felt well and truly beaten up.

Nevertheless, I remain totally convinced by the common sense of making the Uni bar smoke-free and congratulate the toilet-seat-scrubbing Mr Mackerras on his initiative.

—ANDREW DEMPSTER

## One nation: a malign cancer at the ANU

Dear *Woroni*,  
I am writing in response to Silvia Liertz's letter (*Woroni* 49/8) defending the SA's "democratic" vote to ban the One Nation party from expressing their political views on the campus.

Silvia believes that "shutting down" the views of Hanson & One Nation is the most effective way of countering racial prejudice. The problem with this argument is that while One Nation has given racism a political voice, the racial prejudice was there to begin with. Banning One Nation from the campus is like removing the visible signs of a malign cancer growth on the skin. It looks better on the surface but sadly the cancer remains.

Silvia claims that the "free speech debate" is the "easy, passive path".

THE REF SAYS A FUNNY THING



I believe it is far easier to not let someone express their views, than it is to listen to them and to challenge their attitudes. Further, Silvia urges students "to combat racism by shutting One Nation meetings down". Should I bring my battle weapon of choice?!

How effective has militant action been? The media has shown images of Hamish "heroically" spitting on a police officer... what a star! An old man lying on the ground after allegedly being beaten by Anti-One Nation protesters in the Dandenongs... that was courageous? and people throwing all types

of shit at people attending One Nation meetings... how democratically tolerant!

Surely there would be far more political mileage, as Adele Tate suggested, in inviting Hanson to an open debate on the campus and with media coverage showing up the flaws of her socio-political views.

Racism shows intolerance. The SA has shown intolerance in banning One Nation. A SA majority believes an progressive, free thinking and open forum at university is undesirable. Is this the kind of university we want?

—TARN CROWE

## Predestined wank

Dear *Woroni*,  
At first reading I felt sympathy for Mark-Leon Thorne's complaints about the political manoeuvres at the Sexuality Department (*Woroni* 49/6).

In fact, what Mark-Leon didn't realise is that one must recognise and accept Predestination. The Latins used to say: "nomen omen", your destiny is in your name. Now, in Italian the word "Pippa" means "wanker" and "a wank" (true, no kidding).

So, what better choice than Pippa Wischer as ANU Sexuality Officer?

—ROB SORIA

## Bagel rort

Dear *Woroni*,  
Has anyone else noticed the ridiculously high prices of the bagels at Sullivan's? What is it about the word 'bagel' which allows people to charge five dollars for a bread roll with a few bits of lettuce on it?

Give me a 'Speciality Bar' toasted cheese sandwich any day.

—A ISLINGTON

## Write to us

You can write to *Woroni* c/- ANU Students' Association or email us on [woroni\\_articles@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:woroni_articles@student.anu.edu.au). Even better is if you put your letter onto a disc and drop it into the office. Please keep letters under 300 words. Thanks.

## Incompetent cops bungle student arrests

Dear *Woroni*,  
The events of Wed 27/8 should be enough to convince students of the role of cops on campus. The fun and games began with the arrest of Ben Halliday. Ben was singled out, one of several behind police lines, the reason appears to be that he gave a fiery speech in Union Court, right before the angry crowd of 800 moved off towards the chancellery. Later, police could find nothing with which to charge Ben. So much for free speech.

Ben was hand-cuffed, and put in a paddy wagon, but incredibly, police failed to secure the rear door of the vehicle. They passed the padlock only through the bolt on the door itself, not to the bolts on the chassis, and as a result the door hung ajar. Then, as though part of some grim slapstick routine, the officers got in the paddy wagon and began to accelerate up Daley Rd.

With his arms cuffed behind his back, and nothing to hold onto, Ben was in danger of falling from the back of the moving vehicle, and it was all he could do to brace himself against the smooth benches. Police, in grave dereliction of their duties and displaying the utmost incompetence, would have been fully responsible for any injuries.

Luke De Landelles perceived Ben's predicament, and moved to-

wards the scene and was clobbered. He was brutality thrown to the ground and then shoved into a second paddy wagon.

The insanity did not end there. Confused, police began to move Ben's wagon in stop start motions, but still at some speed, enhancing the danger to Ben. The third of us, Luke Deer, drew this to the attention of the crowd and as the paddy wagon came to a halt retrieved Ben temporarily from the wagon. Alerted by Luke, I managed to get in front of the wagon, and then I was dragged behind. Not only was the unlocked door still unattended, but police falsely claimed cars were wanting to get through, and students should be off the road. With no cars in sight, and the danger to Ben still very real, I replied I was not moving and would rather be arrested. The police obliged. The paddy wagon was not properly secured until after myself and Luke Deer joined Ben inside.

Ridiculously, Luke De Landelles has been charged with resisting arrest and hindering an officer; I have been charged with the latter. No doubt the police will look the fools they are when these matters come before the magistrate's court. But the most obvious lesson for students is that the police are on the side of uni admin, enforcing the rotten deal that

is being handed out to students and staff. They have no concern for the safety of anyone opposing the cuts and sackings.

Already in the AD Hope Building students had experienced police treatment. Tutorials were shut down by police because of a rumour of the occupation of the building. Police simply busted into classes and threw everyone out. Actually, with workers and academic staff attending, students simply used the building for a meeting later in the day. When students met under classical artefacts, police and security portrayed students as vandals who could not be trusted. If barbarism is strictly a rejection of Greek culture, then as administration tries to close the classics department, there can be no doubt who the real barbarians are on campus.

—GERALD KEANEY

## VC brings on the bully boys

Dear *Woroni*,  
The presence of police on campus at the recent protest rally shows how determined the VC is to push through the university budget cuts, in blatant disregard for the mass opposition that has come from students and staff. Terrell is left with no option but to call in thugs to protect

his buildings from angry protesters. Terrell only cares about the smooth running of the university and if that means calling in the police then that's what he will do. If he won't listen to the protesters then we are in a position where we must escalate our action. I'm sick of these bullies always having it over us and making decisions about the ANU without a thought for students and staff. We have to force them to treat us with the respect we deserve. Their bully-boy tactics have to be countered with united and defiant action.

—ALICE SMITH

## Dictatorship of thuggish accountants

Dear *Woroni*,  
The ANU Administration has decreed the sacking of 100 people from the ANU. The Administration is an unelected clique which rules in a dictatorial manner. In the face of the overwhelming opposition to the sackings demonstrated by students and staff the only response from them has been excused, contempt and police. They hide behind a respectable facade, recite economic mantra and fool nobody. They plead "economic reality" but can find \$38mil, over four years, for a pet "Endowment for Excellence" scheme. The Vice-Chancellor could

apply for excellence in hiring, firing and general head-kicking and number crunching. The thuggish accountant par excellence.

The Admin may as well be carrying brief cases and sledge hammers. To carry out the forcible shut down of whole departments. They also want to close down the Noel Built archives, the most valuable collections of Australia's history of its kind. Founded in 1957, it contains 13 000 shelf metres of Australia's economic, business and labour history — an intellectual diamond mine. But then history is so troublesome to our paid clique of vandals. Why doesn't the admin just build a large bonfire of "boring old archives" in the Union and call it open day? It would be a lot cheaper, but then again it would look too good.

We intend to stop these thuggish accountants. They are a minority. Students and staff can put their idiosyncy to rest. Admin can pass decrees, but the uni can't run without students and staff. We can cost them thousands in disruptions and humiliation. May they pay dearly? If we don't do something we will pay with our jobs and our education. Reason is in revolt and we will fight to win.

—HAMISH McPHERSON  
ANU SOCIALIST WORKER STUDENT CLUB

• she's so mean • but I don't care • I love her eyes • and her wild wild hair •

# the **union bar**

september '97

**FRI 5**  
the rug, cuss  
& little yak

**SAT 6**  
henry's anger, liquid  
+ deviant. plan

8 pool tables  
Coopers beer  
on tap

**MONDAYS**  
pool  
comp \$100  
prize

**WED 10 SEPT - ALL AGES - TICKETS AT DOOR**  
horsehead, figurehead  
+ one man bucket

**THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER**

## GRINSPOON, MOLER & N.I.L

**FRI 12 SEPTEMBER**  
act campus band  
comp final

mighty few  
minddust  
cuss  
busted stylus  
and others

sept 13  
the  
indy500  
music quiz with  
bar tab  
prize & djs

**SEPT 17**  
half  
mongrel  
& vivian's  
hamster  
(bris)

sep 18  
the  
jazz  
indy500  
music quiz with  
bar tab  
prize & djs

**SEPT 19**  
mindpuddle  
stayput  
tangerine  
ice cream  
headache

**SEPT 20**  
way hip  
antelopes  
+ guests

**WED 24 SEPT - TICKETS ON SALE**  
dave graney  
+ karma county

**SEPT 26**  
the figure-  
head  
tangerine

**SAT 27 SEPT**  
indyfest

**THURS 2 OCT TICKETS  
ON SALE**  
cake

**TUES 30 SEPT ALL AGES**  
veryfa  
salt  
blood  
hound  
gang  
TICKETS ON SALE

**WED 1 OCT**  
BEN  
FOLDS  
FIVE  
+cordrazine  
SELLING FAST

**SAT 4 OCT**  
alchemist  
**WED 8 OCT**  
strapping  
young lad  
TICKETS ON SALE

UNLESS STATED "ALL AGES", SHOWS  
ARE FOR OVER 18'S AND ID MUST BE SHOWN

ANU UNION CONCERTLINE: 249 2546

## Arts cuts anger students

by Michael Cook

**A**N ANU Administration proposal to cut one in five academic and general staff positions from the Faculty of Arts, resulting in the loss of over 30 jobs and the closure of the Classics department, has enraged staff and student groups.

Under the 19-page plan, released this month, the Arts Faculty must lose 24 academic and 8.7 general staff positions by next year. Heads of Departments within the faculty only have until mid-September to advise the Dean on a restructuring plan, which must detail the exact positions lost. The proposal also cast doubts over the future of the Classics continuing as a separate department.

The plan strongly suggests 'restructuring' the department by reducing six academic staff to one — effectively forcing it to close or merge with the History department.

According to the proposal, such cuts are necessary to counter an estimated \$3.1 million Faculty deficit this year; the causes of such a deficit were listed as falling student numbers, salary increases and a cut in government funding.

The accuracy of both the financial and enrolment figures used

within the report have been strongly questioned. Robert Barnes, an academic member of the Classics department, queried the accuracy of the report's findings at a recent emergency meeting of Classics students and staff. He stated the figures were used selectively to 'prove' a point, and were not an accurate reflection of the department's (and Faculty's) performance.

Staff and students reacted to the proposal by launching a series of demonstrations against the "badly prioritised" and "Judicious" cuts. One rally, attended by over 1,000 people, was addressed by Labor MP Mark Latham and Democrat Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja.

"I find it quite disturbing to think of an Australian National University without the Classics department or BA in Australian Studies," said Mr Latham, the Labor Higher Education Spokesman, to the vocal crowd. "It doesn't say much about where our nation is headed, let alone its education system."

"Federal funding cuts are to blame, as are misplaced priorities outlined in the discussion paper that's come out of the University Administration... when the history is written of the public policy of this

time it will be labelled under the heading of 'Madness'."

Senator Stott-Despoja, Democrat Higher Education Spokesperson, strongly urged the ANU to "take its responsibilities seriously, just as we urge the government to start thinking about the impact it's having on individual departments, individual campuses, and entire institutions."

"I condemn this institution for even considering the loss of the Classics department," said the Senator. "It could be the end of civilisation as we never even get to know about it!"

Students' Association President Matt Tinning further outlined the misplaced priorities of the proposal to the crowd. "This document details the cutting of every department in the Faculty of Arts... but does not detail in any depth what the impact on students will be. In 19 pages of document, it devotes two sentences to the issue. The decimation of a faculty in these sorts of proportions can't happen without enormous pain for both the staff and students."

To loud cheers, Mr Tinning concluded "This is a document that deserves contempt."

ANU's Chairman of the Board of Faculties, Professor Richard

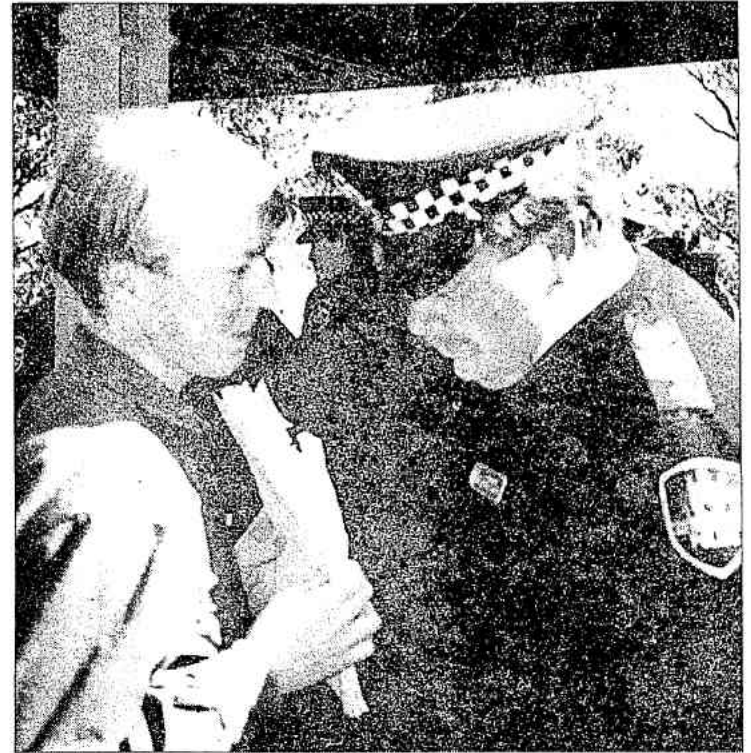


PHOTO BY MICHAEL COOK

(above) James Connor points out the fine print of the riot act

Campbell — who was responsible for the proposal and who was not present at the rally — said the matter was a difficult and painful one. Quoted in the ANU Reporter, Professor Campbell stressed the changes would not disadvantage students. "We will need to address the question of how the faculty is able to fulfill the implicit contract that's made with currently enrolled

students — that they will be able to finish their degrees... it's probably a little early to flesh things out."

After reading Professor's Campbell's reassurances, one Arts student in the crowd commented "We won't be the ANU for very long. They might as well put up a sign at the entrance, saying 'Welcome to the Australian National Business College.'"

### New disability plan improves campus access

A NEW disability plan for the ANU is set to greatly improve campus life for students with a disability. There are currently 220 students registered with the Disability Support Unit at the ANU, which provides assistance for students with long term and temporary disabilities.

Under the plan, which was improved in June by the University Council, there will be increased funding for personal support, for instance note-taking, installation of a lift in the Hayden-Allen building and introduction of a postgraduate scholarship for students with disabilities. These are just some of the improvements to be made un-

der the plan which also includes the sealing of all pedestrian routes in a continuous pathway by 2005 and the inclusion of adaptive computer equipment in the annual computer procurement process.

SRC member Margaret Kilcullen, who was involved in drawing up the plan, said she thinks it is a "big step forward" for people with a disability at the ANU. "I feel there is a genuine commitment to eliminating discrimination and improving the opportunities for people with a disability. Of course, the real proof of that will be in the implementation of the plan"

—MICHAELA PETERS

### Welfare officer's position in jeopardy

The SA's Welfare Officer position is in jeopardy after the University refused to continue funding it. Currently, the position is half funded by the University and half by GSF money.

Peer Group, the combined Union, Students Association, Sports Union, and University committee which decides how GSF funds are to be spent, is reluctant to fund the full cost of the position. It may be that if funding for the position is included in next year's budget it will be scaled down to a part time position. Discussions with the university are continuing, and the GSF committee will meet again either in late September or October.

The Welfare Officer, Anne

McCusker, says the funding cuts are just one more example of the University "putting the boot into students." She has seen over one thousand five hundred students this year and helps students with academic problems, housing and since the abolition of the Austudy Officer's position, a large number of Austudy concerns. At the beginning of the year, when the Austudy changes came into effect and it was difficult for students to get help on the Austudy hotline, Anne helped many students. She said the uncertainty over her position has caused her much concern. "It is not only my job in jeopardy, but the services to students."

—HELEN DREW

### GSF capped for 1998

The general services fee has been effectively capped for three years under a proposal put to the University Council by SA President Matt Tinning.

The ANU general services fee, which is currently set at \$180, is one of the lowest undergraduate services fees in Australia and seems likely to stay that way. The three year cap comes about as part of the University's general move to a three year budgeting scheme.

Matt Tinning says that apart from keeping the cost of the fee low for students the three year plan has the benefit of ensuring that projects and services currently funded by the University for students are not forced to be funded out of the general services fee over the next three years.

The plan has been definitely approved by university council for 1998 and should also go ahead in the next two years.

### Correction

In the August 14 edition of *Woroni* a news story entitled 'Smoking ban in uni bar' said the sale of cigarettes in the union would be discontinued under the ban on smoking. This is not the case. Cigarettes will continue to be sold in the union during the ban. *Woroni* apologises for any inconvenience caused by this error.

### Anti violence campaign

"How long have you known you were heterosexual? Have you told your parents?" These words were taken from a poster produced by the ANU Sexuality Department which is aimed at increasing the awareness of gay and lesbian issues. Set up as a point of contact for students wanting to talk about their sexuality, the department is also actively involved in promoting tolerance of homosexuals in Canberra.

One of the problems that the two Sexuality Officers, Pippa and Matt continuously have to deal with is the effect of verbal and physical abuse directed at gay and lesbian students, both at ANU and at Canberra University.

Whilst officially, there has not been any such incidences reported this year, Pippa and Matt have spoken with several victims of attacks and seen at first hand that sexual violence is something many students are struggling with: "This violent behaviour has a lasting impact that prevents people from going about their daily activities", says Pippa, "and the violence is not just physical, verbal abuse can be just as traumatic and difficult to cope with, especially when it's on a regular basis".

Because none of these incidences have been reported, the sexuality officers have not been able to convince the relevant authorities that urgent action is needed. Based on anecdotal evidence it seems the patterns of failure to report incidences

are similar to those on other campuses. Statistics indicate that less than 50% of gay men and less than 10% of lesbians will report a violent assault. "There are clear reasons for this," says Pippa, "there is no opportunity to go to gay-friendly police in Canberra." For this reason, Pippa sees the need for a campaign which raises awareness and educates a wide section of Canberra's community.

Anti-violence projects have been set up across Australia, but a lack of funding and volunteers in Canberra has limited its success here. Pippa and Matt see the need for more documentation of these events to demonstrate to ANU Security, the police and the ACT Government that more support is needed. To do this, they are calling for information of any victimisation or assault on the grounds of sexuality experienced either on campus, between the university and residences, or around Canberra.

The information should contain details on where the attacks occurred, what sort of violence it was, (physical or verbal), and what age group was involved. Any reports can be made by leaving a message on the phone, by email, or by talking directly to Pippa or Matt. They emphasise that all information will be treated as completely confidential. Contact the Sexuality Department [sexdep@student.anu.edu.au](mailto:sexdep@student.anu.edu.au), or phone 249 8514.

—MAGGIE KAUFFMAN



## Heidi joins constitutional convention

HEIDI Zwar, a fourth year Arts/Law student at the ANU says she is "delighted to be representing the youth of the ACT at the constitutional convention." Heidi, who is currently President of the ANU Liberal Club, is one of eight appointed youth delegates to the conference.

"I have been following the republican debate for some time. When I heard about the convention I contacted Senator Minchin's office through Parliament House and expressed my interest. I was told to forward a CV which I did", says Heidi.

"I will represent the views of younger Australians who are not necessarily emotionally attached to the monarchy, yet who don't see the need for any immediate rush into a republic." Heidi has been involved

in the United Nations Youth Conference, was an editor of *Woroni*, and has been elected to positions on the Student Representative Council, the Law Society, the Liberal Club and the Debating Society.

After the announcement of the delegates, there was a scurry of interest in some of the delegates, especially the youth. Already Heidi has done interviews with the three local television stations, *The Age*, *The Australian*, *The Canberra Times*, *The 7:30 Report*, the ABC and Triple J and has had to endure personal attacks from the Federal Opposition, who voted against the convention. An Opposition Senator, Nick Bolkus, said in Parliament, that Heidi Zwar "presented herself as a sex machine." He quickly retracted the comments but failed to explain that

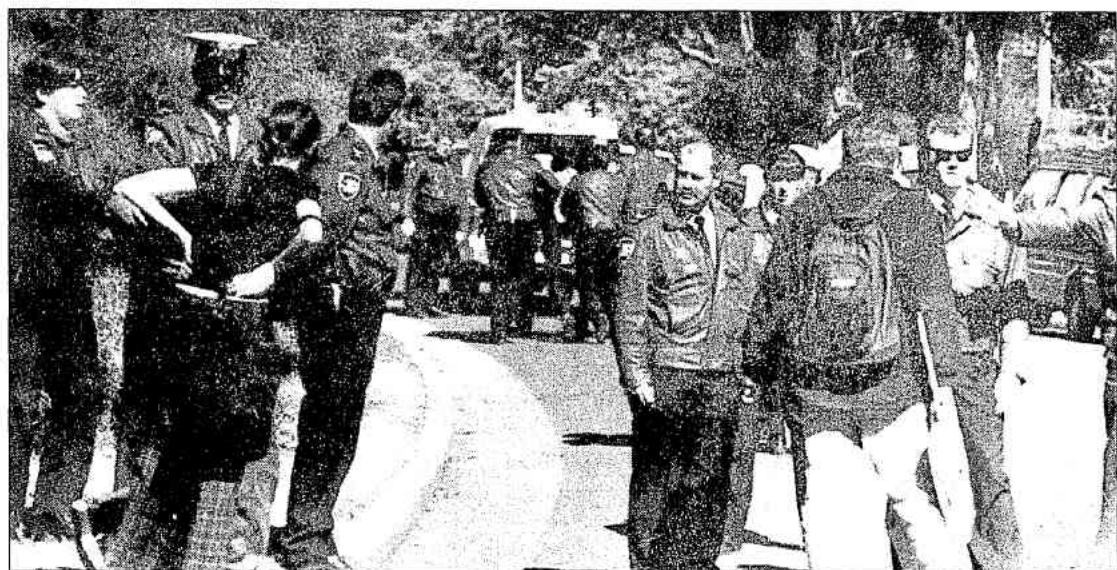
he was referring to the 1995 *Woroni* elections where she and nine others ran on a ticket titled "Sex Machine".

When asked if she thought the majority of young Australians were republicans, Heidi responded: "Certainly I think those who grew up in the Keating era have been brought up with the republic as a central issue. I think you would be surprised, however, at how many people don't have a problem with the current system of government or who don't care either way.

"I am keen to canvass the views of other youth in the region, particularly on key issues such as whether the head of state should be elected or appointed — and how; what should be done with reserve powers, and what the role of a republi-



(above) Heidi Zwar can head of state would be." Students will have the opportunity to contact Heidi with their views on these and any other related matters closer to the time of the convention.



(above) The Federal police find something fun to do in Canberra

PHOTO BY JAMES PAINTER

## Four arrested at protest rally

THE cuts to the Arts Faculty have caused anger at the perceived contempt ANU Administration holds towards students and staff, leading to the arrest of four ANU students.

Last Wednesday's large rally (organised to protest the cuts) was confronted by a large number of police officers as it reached the Chancellery. Some members of the demonstration tried to breach police lines, resulting in a flurry of violence. As the majority of protesters conducted a peaceful demonstration on one side

of the building, a window was broken and a ground-floor office briefly occupied, leading to three arrests.

The building had been evacuated before the rally in fear of a student occupation.

One of those arrested staged a brief, dramatic escape after five police officers hustled him into a waiting van, which promptly sped away with the door open. As the van slowed, another student grabbed the handcuffed individual out of the back and they fled to freedom, until

15 officers descended on them and proceeded to vigorously rub their faces into the ground.

After asking the Commissioned Officer the necessity of 70 police officers to guard the Chancellery, and the charges to be laid against those arrested, he responded "I've got nothing to say to you, mate. In fact, you're being a bit of a... I mean, could you please move back as you may be a potential obstruction."

—MICHAEL COOK

## Smoking ban to begin in December

THE results in the recent Union elections showed some support for the ban smoking in the Union. Four new directors were elected — undergraduates, Faye Liu and David Jeffery of Noise and Linda Han of ... Melissa McKewan of Noise was elected as the postgraduate director. Noise were openly in support of the ban. Six old board directors have completed their terms, including the original proponent of the ban, Patrick Mackerras.

A proposal banning smoking in the Uni bar from December 2 1997

was passed by the Union Board in August, at the last meeting of the old board.

The Board will monitor the ban on smoking on a month by month basis and has the option to discontinue the ban at any time.

The resolution was proposed by Patrick Mackerras and John Asker, who was not in favour of the ban. They identified the timing of the ban as an advantage of the scheme, saying its financial impact could be monitored over summer, when smokers would be content to smoke

outside, and compared with autumn, before the Board decides whether to continue the ban into winter.

Patrick and John's proposal said the real impact on members of the union would begin in O-week, and that non-smoking members could use the bar immediately "rather than having to be lured back by a ban implemented mid year once they had already decided they didn't like the bar on account of the smoke".

—HELEN DREW

## Computer modems to be outsourced

THE University's modem pool, currently provided free of charge, is likely to be outsourced by early next year.

The current modem service, funded by a one-off grant, has no continuing financial support and is in need of an upgrade. This service is important for engineering and computer science students whose degree involves work on-line. However, the lack of a help desk or information line has restricted the use of the service by students who do not have good technical knowledge.

**"Students relying on the modem service could be asked to pay for services they neither need, want, nor can afford"**

While the World Wide Web can be accessed through the current modem service, this access is text only and tends to be very slow.

As a result of these problems the University is currently assessing responses to a "request for information" process initiated last month.

To be supplied by a private company, the new service will be a substantial improvement on what is currently available and is likely to include better access to the World Wide Web and an information line.

It is also hoped that this service will be available at a cost lower than those currently available on the commercial market. The bottom line, however, is that the cost of a previously free service will be charged directly to students.

Although the potential cost of an outsourced service is far from clear, it seems likely that charges will be in the vicinity of one dollar per hour of access.

There is a real risk that many students currently relying on the modem service will be asked to pay for services they neither need, want nor can afford.

—SIMON QUARTERMAINE

## bits in brief

John's to remain open

John XXIII College will remain open next year despite the announcement earlier this year that the college would close in 1998. *Woroni* hasn't found out how the John's administration were able to pull this off but we hope to bring you the story in the next issue. Miss it and miss out.

Indigenous People of Ecuador

The Quichua Peoples of Ecuadorian Amazon have a unique and vibrant culture struggling to maintain its identity in modern Ecuador. One Quichua family, the Mamallactas, are demonstrating that their culture and environmental stewardship of their traditional lands is possible. Theirs is an inspirational good news story. A talk and slide show about this family (with music and food!) will be held on Wednesday September 17 in Manning Clarke at 7.30pm. For more information contact Hannah Parris on 247 2872

'Fight Racism!' conference

The 'Fight Racism!' conference in Sydney on September 27-28 will be an opportunity for young people and anti-racism activists to discuss the history of racism, the nature of racism today and how to defeat it.

The sessions and panels include: What is racism?; Fighting Racism: then and now; Migrants and work; and a final session devoted to discussion about the next steps for the campaign.

The conference agenda will also include a public meeting on Aboriginal rights, with feature speakers including Graceland Smallwood, recent recipient of a Libyan peace prize, and other representatives from campaigns for land rights, including the defence of the Redfern "Block". Organisers hope the conference can make a useful contribution to debates about sources of racism, the role of Pauline Hanson's One Nation party, how to combat the far right (and whether to call for racist groups to be censored), the role of the Labor and Liberal parties, and how to win campaigns against racist attacks such as the recent cuts to Abstudy.

For more information call (02) 9267 4462 or (02) 9690 1977.

—WILL WILLIAMS

# Woroni



## student comment

Harry Greenwell  
Nick Wood

### Pigs might die: animal liberation

Last Friday, protesters against battery farming had charges of trespass at Parkwood Eggs dismissed, and no convictions recorded. Last year, a man was given a lengthy gaol term for tying his dog to a pole and beating it to death with an iron bar. He was frustrated because the dog was barking whilst he was trying to sleep.

Many people accept that in cases like these, we must have some regard for animal welfare. Few explore the implications of such a stance. This is partly because to accept these implications involves a change in lifestyle. It is also due to ignorance about the degree of suffering of animals.

Meat production nowadays is based on factory farming. Meat animals, are increasingly kept in confined controlled environments. In the pork industry, confinement causes so much stress to pigs that many die from a phenomenon known as 'porcine stress syndrome'. Pigs get so bored they chew into the tail of pigs in front, eventually biting into the nervous system. Pigs now have their tails docked to prevent this 'vice'. Battery and broiler hens are routinely debeaked, with hot blades to prevent them from

pecking one another, sometimes to death. The process is not conducted with medical precision and many hens suffer lifelong mutilation. Stress and disease also result in dozens of dead hens being cleared out each morning.

Factory farming often involves feeding animals diets designed to maximise production by deliberate malnourishment. Cattle fatten more quickly on grain than grass, so after grazing for the first six months of their lives, they will be fed a grain-based diet in feedlots.

**"Sows have their legs spread apart, strapped to the rack whilst male pigs injected with testosterone are set upon them"**

This diet lacks any fibre essential to their digestive process, causing abscesses in the stomach. Veal calves develop the wrong colour and texture to their meat if they have adequate supplies of iron, so they are fed a liquid diet to make them anaemic. To compensate, calves attempt to eat their own faeces.

Pork production is similarly upsetting. 'Rape racks' are used to maximise reproduction: sows have their legs spread apart, strapped to the rack whilst male pigs injected with testosterone are set upon them. Piglets are removed and artificially weaned, ensuring the sow can regain fertility sooner.

Transportation, also causes much

distress and disease, particularly amongst sheep and cattle who will display symptoms of 'shrinkage' or 'shipping fever'. Shrinkage includes dehydration, weight loss and stress from a lack of regular feeding. Shipping fever is a form of pneumonia, a virus to which cattle stressed from long travel are often susceptible. Many deaths during transportation occur.

It is not surprising animal suffering is rife in the meat industry. It supplies a huge market, and as long as humans continue to consume meat there will be an incentive to adopt practises which increase output at the expense of animal welfare.

The question is: does it matter? I do not believe there is any reason for ignoring the suffering of others, whoever or whatever those others are. However, this is a personal position. Think back on the man who beat his dog to death. If you feel no qualms at his actions, so be it, but otherwise, it is worth remembering that your dinner probably lived an even more tortured existence. If you agree that it is necessary to boycott companies like Nestle, Shell and Mitsubishi for their unconscionable business practices, you should also recognise the need to exercise our consumer sovereignty against the meat industry. Whilst money is to be made from the suffering of animals, today's inhumane practices are bound to continue.

## sexuality department

### Anti homophobia campaigns for ACT

Howdy folks. Another busy month for us. We have completed the first draft of a document rebutting the myths about homosexual, bisexual and transgendered identifying individuals, for politicians voting on the Sexuality Bill put forward by Sid Spindler (Democrats). The Senate Committee Report will be handed in by September 30, so we've joined forces with the Australian Council for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Canberra to lobby for legislative change. We will publish a copy of the document on our home page, and distribute it around campus.

We produced a poster that seemed to be covered, ripped or destroyed within a day, so another run will be happening shortly. Another poster is being planned, to mimic the successful NSW anti-violence council posters, using Canberra celebs. Kate Carnell is first, with senators and the Raiders as possible follow-ups. If you have any suggestions or contacts, please let us know. We will also be discussing with Kate Carnell the anti-violence project in the ACT, the police gay and lesbian contact officer scheme and other issues affecting ANU students.

We are currently working closely with Fenner Hall on poster campaigns and information sessions for students. This has started with an anti-homophobia campaign.

On another matter, the position of Welfare Officer is being "defunded" next year. That means that Anne McCusker will no longer be there to help students deal with Austudy bureaucracy, the DSS or public housing. In the past she has been particularly helpful to queer identifying students, by helping them obtain Austudy and set up queer households.

We are appalled her position is being culled, as this will affect all students, but especially queer students who have been kicked out of home or other housing who need support and knowledge of how to get through the series of "no, we don't do that" which come crashing down upon young people in crisis.

The story is that "peer group" — the sports union/union/SA/ university administration combo that decides how your GSF will be spent, has decided they will no longer fund their half of her salary. The SA has asked for more funds to cover the shortfall created if they pay 100% of the position's salary, and Peer group has refused to increase funds going to the SA to cover it. So if you can spare a few quick minutes, please write to Philip Selth, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Planning and Administration), Chancellery Building, ANU 0200, stating your objections to the funding cut and outlining the disastrous affect this will have upon the well-being of students.

—PIPPA AND MATT  
6279 8514

sexdep@student.anu.edu.au

## on campus

We asked 1. Do you think Wednesday's rally and occupation aided the plight of the Arts faculty? 2. If you were performing an emergency splenectomy on Batman, would you peek under his cowl? 3. If you could cancel any television show currently screening, which would it be?



1. It showed that students do give a fuck, but the way they went about it was not the best.
2. No, I know who he is, I've seen the movie.
3. I really hate *Home & Away*.  
—BRIAN (ARMY RESERVE)



1. Hmm... I think it started well, but I don't think they achieved their goal.
2. No, he's Batman — you have got to respect that.
3. Ooo... probably *The Price is Right*.  
—VERONICA (ARCHAEOLOGY HONS)



1. I reckon personally it damaged it.
2. I have no idea... No, I think I would.
3. That's a hard one... make it *Peak Practice*.  
—ERNEST (ECO/COM 2ND YEAR)



1. I didn't go.
2. Definitely not. It is just wrong, morally wrong.
3. *The Nanny*. That voice...  
—DAVE (FORESTRY)

## women's officers

### Reclaim the night

During the mid-semester break Becky and I went up to Brisbane for the Network of Women Students Australia (NOWSA) '97 Conference. The experience of being in a lecture theatre with a few hundred passionate and vocal feminists was heartening, however the same could not be said of many discussions which suggested many advances made by women are being eroded. For example, Children by Choice, a Queensland referral and information agency for pregnant women, had its government funding stopped because the Minister for Health believes they refer too many women for abortions and the money should go instead to more "family-oriented" services.

One of the more interesting talks was given by a woman who had been denied access to artificial insemination in Queensland because she was a lesbian. She was particularly disturbed by the media hysteria which surrounded her case and the ignorant, homophobic assumption that lesbians make less capable or acceptable parents. During her protracted legal dispute the woman had accessed fertility services interstate and had given birth to a girl, which she said had made it difficult for defence counsel to portray her

as unfit to be a mother, as she was obviously a very able and loving one. Her commitment to keep fighting all the way to the High Court if necessary, was particularly admirable as the process had clearly been emotionally draining. The lectures given a woman from the Domestic Violence Resource Centre and indigenous women were also noteworthy. Next year's conference will be held at Nepean Uni, Western Sydney during the mid-semester break, which will be a lot more accessible for ANU women.

**Reclaim the Night** will be held on Friday 31st October in Civic. It is an annual event where women get together to protest about violence against women, and reclaim their right to walk the streets in safety. The night is one of solidarity and celebration where women take to the streets with whistles and candles, and it features speakers, bands and stalls. The collective organising the event has started meeting on Fridays at 5pm and anyone who is interested in contributing would be most welcome. Contact Deb Francis on 2531424 (h) or 2478071 (w); or the Women's Office on 2798514.

—SARAH CHIDGEY  
REBECCA DEVITT

Students' Association

president's report

matt tinning  
sa president



Arts cuts insanity

One month after the infamous *Faculty of Arts Restructuring* document was released there is still no sign of the University changing its tune on the massive cuts it is proposing to inflict upon the Faculty of Arts. By now everyone probably knows what is being proposed: the abolition of the Classics Department; the halving of Modern European Languages; the removal of 3 academic posts from both History and Political Science; and the down-sizing of every other Department. What is more, the two vague sentences devoted to student impact in the original document have still not grown into the more substantive paper which was originally promised, leaving many students fearful of their ability to complete postgraduate research or undergraduate majors.

The Students' Association has been doing everything possible to convince the University it should consider alternatives to what is proposed. We have argued, we have organised a "Day of Defiance" with Mark Latham and Natasha Stott Despoja, and we have supported the Classical Society in their "Epic" reading of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* on the steps of the Chancery building. In addition, the National Tertiary Education Union have escalated industrial action, calling a week-long stoppage in the Arts Faculty for week 9. Hopefully persistence will eventually pay dividends!

Keeping the GSF lower for longer

At a recent meeting the University Council gave in-principle approval to a paper compiled by the student organisations. It submitted that the general services fee should be capped at \$180 for the next 4 years. Considering that

**"Two vague sentences on student impact in the Arts Restructuring document have not grown into a more substantive paper, leaving students fearful about completing postgraduate research or undergraduate majors"**

the ANU's general services fee is one of the lowest in the country, having such a proposal accepted was quite an achievement. What is better, it was made possible by the University agreeing to reduce the controversial "Capital Development Levy" component of the general services fee, which is set aside for future student-initiated building projects. Every student can now hopefully rest assured that — unless they're planning on spending a ridiculously long time at the ANU — they will not have to fork out more than \$180 at the start of the year in future.

Constitutional Capers

The Students' Association has a brand new Constitution, after it was passed by a General Meeting and then by the University Council. Thanks to everyone who participated in the Students' Association General Meeting last month, and to all those involved in moulding the final document. Particular thanks go to Harry Greenwell for his work on the new constitution — hopefully we've now finally got a better document than the one Gary Humphries bequeathed us in 1984!

The SA Elections

The third week of September is when cynicism with the student political process usually reaches its zenith. Having endured one election for Union Board Directors, members of the university community suddenly find that they can't enter a lecture theatre without being confronted with a myriad of fliers; can't glance at a notice board without seeing yet another political poster; can't even enter the Union Building without having at least half a dozen pamphlets thrust in their face.

What is worse, this year's Students' Association election will have to be endured without the usual light relief. With the *Woroni* editorship being uncontested, there is little chance that postering in the G-Force "Bob & Blanche" league will take place. And with veteran joke ticket campaigner David Jeffrey hanging up his boots, only "the Luke Party" offers any sort of comic distraction from the relentless crusade of the serious student politician.

I would, however, encourage you to brave the polling booth this September nonetheless. The quality of student representation we receive in 1998 is likely to have a direct impact on many of the decisions the University takes next year — and as some of their more recent decisions demonstrate they can have an enormous effect on students. The SA does, of course have many other functions, everything ranging from putting on O-Week to running a Women's Department. With cynicism in such abundance, consider giving those contesting the election the benefit of the doubt and casting an informed vote. See you on the hustings!

political corner

Greenhouse: a lot of gas?

Greens parliamentarians Senator Bob Brown and ACT MLA Kerrie Tucker, believe that when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions the future is green or not all.

The landmark 1996 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) predicts that by the year 2100, average global temperatures will rise between one and 3.5 degrees. That change is almost as large, and would be far more rapid, than the one that ended the last ice age. It would cause a half-metre rise in sea levels, and deaths from heat and spread of tropical diseases. It would spawn droughts, economic losses in forestry, agriculture and fisheries, species extinction and the potential of more severe hurricanes and storms. Senator Brown has just released the Greens ten point action plan on greenhouse while the ACT Greens already have an impressive record of local reforms.

The 10 pt plan includes the innovative "Sun Fund" currently under consideration by the Senate. The current diesel fuel rebate returns \$1440 million per annum to farmers and miners. The Greens' Sun Fund proposal could see up to \$85 million of that being used by farmers who choose to take part to instead install solar powered options to provide electricity for homesteads and machinery sheds. Senator Brown says the fund would help farmers and contribute to reduc-

ing greenhouse gas emissions. It would be a major boost for Australia's renewable energy manufacturing industry.

Kerrie Tucker says the first challenge locally was to force the ACT Government to set targets for reducing emissions and to ensure industry was made accountable for improving its performance. The Greens MLAs have had major successes, including: having the principles of ecologically sustainable development included as an objective of ACTEW, getting the Assembly to set greenhouse gas reduction targets and the Government and ACTEW to back a project to produce electricity from methane from the Mugga Lane landfill and to develop a green power option for ACT electricity consumers.

The ACT Greens have proposed the establishment of an Energy Efficiency and Alternative Energy Fund. The fund would provide about \$2 million annually to be used for incentives for households, businesses and public education. "The ACT imports nearly all of its energy. That means that most of the money spent on energy in the ACT generates jobs elsewhere. In contrast, most of the money spent on energy saving systems — such as insulation, solar water heaters and other building retrofitting activities — would stay in Canberra and generate new business and employment opportunities in the ACT."

—TIFFANY LYNCH  
GREENS ON CAMPUS

reports

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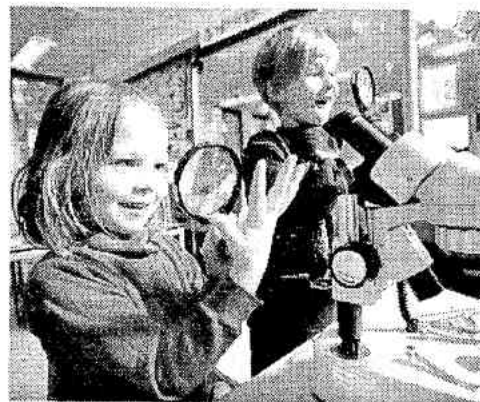
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## debate

## Oasis — what's the story?

Vinegar Tits hates them so, predictably, Patrick Mackerras loves them. Are the Gallagher brothers, Noel and Liam, the best musicians in the world, seriously derivative or the 90's answer to Herman's Hermits? Patrick and Vinegar go head to head on one of this decade's most crucial pop culture issues.

Vinegar and I used to do German together but we haven't spoken in a while. The news that I think Oasis' new album *Be Here Now* is actually quite good must have lowered Vinegar's opinion of me to somewhere down past rock bottom. Not only do I get on with mature-age students and fail to appreciate the air-freshening qualities of cigarette smoke, but I also like Oasis.

But I'm probably less worried by Vinegar's Oasis antagonism than Tits' other vitriol. Vinegar is just one of a number of alleged sophisticates who think that the way to assert their own superior tastes is to pour scorn on the mainstream likings of others. No doubt the rest of my nerd herd, the debating society, do as well.

Perhaps the most frequently heard objection to Oasis is to the brothers Gallagher themselves. Well, the idea of judging bands by the personalities of their members is pretty novel. On this basis virtually every band I can think of gets the thumbs down. On one end of the spectrum you've got that brattish trio Hanson and on the other you can see Jimmy Morrison happily residing amongst the many expert practitioners of misogyny that rock music has thrown at us over the years. Somewhere in between you have a whole range of groups that, like Oasis, think they're legendary but continually subject us to their false modesty and insincere musings on how "fame isn't what it's cracked up to be".

The main thing about Oasis is that their aggressive and all-encompassing honesty makes their arrogance (just) bearable. Liam and Noel Gallagher are essentially butterfly-brains who'll tell the media the first thing that comes into their heads (that's why track two on *Be Here Now* is called "My Big Mouth"). If one day Liam is feeling good about himself, and maybe even thinks he's the best singer in the world, he'll say so. When Noel is asked what he thinks of *Be Here Now*, he'll tell the truth: it's more of the same old bollocks. There is even a line in "Stand by Me" "what's the matter with you, sing me something new".

I'm afraid I just can't be bothered getting all worked up about the personality defects of the Gallaghers. We're dealing with people who, if they hadn't made it big playing out their Beatles fixation on the world stage, would probably be underpaid labourers suffering the consequences of a violent and deprived childhood in a Manchester council house.

The other main objection to Oa-

sis raised by people like Vinegar, is that the music is derivative. Please tell us something we don't already know.

Of course this new album, *Be Here Now*, has a lot of recycled stuff on it. The phrase "I met my maker I made him cry" from "D'You Know What I Mean" is just "Head like a rock spinning round and round" from an earlier B-side release "(It's good) To Be Free". "Stand by Me"'s chorus "Nobody knows the way it's gonna be" has exactly the same tune as "Of chasing the sun, let me be the one" from "Slide Away" on *Definitely Maybe*. I could give you fifteen other examples but there's no room. In any case, I don't think anyone can seriously doubt that *Be Here Now* is just "variations on a theme (probably) by Noel Gallagher".

But this is weak criticism. There is nothing wrong with borrowing phrases. Songwriter Irving Berlin once said "I depend largely on tricks when I'm writing songs — there is no such thing as new melody". Two songs with the same tune can sound completely different.

Noel Gallagher

uses the tricks with varying success. The title track from *Be Here Now* sounds pretty much the same as his magnificent anthem to those great inseparables Cigarettes and Alcohol. But there are a number of songs in this new album that are quite a change. The happy "All Around the World", though heavily derivative of the Beatles' "Hey Jude", is certainly a new sound for them. Gallagher has also designed "It's Getting Better (Man!!)" to be pure Rolling Stones, a pretty lame attempt to get away from his traditional Beatlesque stuff, but it's a great song nonetheless.

Oasis' sources are many and various. So unless people reckon the Rolling Stones sound just like the Beatles, I don't see how they can sustain the criticism that "Oasis all sounds the same".

But really, I don't care how derivative Oasis is, and I don't think anyone else who likes them does either. A man in London, who'd slept out overnight to get his copy, was asked by a journalist "what if it's not any good?". He replied "How could it not be good? It's by Oasis!". That's the right attitude. All you'll get from this album is loud, confident, guitar-driven rock that actually has a tune. *Be Here Now* is not revolutionary by any means, but it keeps the general forms going in a way that maintains the listener's interest. That's exactly what Mozart did. It's what the vast majority of musicians do. Vinegar, get over it.

—PATRICK MACKERRAS

A breathless press release was issued recently concerning the 'near miss' the boys from Oasis had when a helicopter crashed and almost killed them during the filming of their multi million dollar video extravaganza they were making to accompany their multi-million selling exercise in triviality — their new single. To say that I was disappointed that the boys had not been killed would have been an understatement. All I could dream about for the next week was the satisfaction of seeing Liam and Noel's heads put through the unforgiving blades of a helicopter — chopping their thick skulls into slices of hairy Polish salami. I would awake from my restful slumber only to discover that not only was it not a dream, but that fucking awful "Do you know what I mean?" song was playing on my clock radio alarm.

Oasis, you gotta love 'em. They're rough, tough lads from the 'wrong side of the tracks' but they have hearts of gold and love their mums. Puke. I'd love to see Liam and Noel go a round with Flava Flav and Chuck D and have the living

shit kicked out of them. Does anyone actually fall for this bullshit act? This whole "We're the best band in the world and we'll fight yoo's all" routine? It's more soulless and arse kissing than their pathetic baby boomer pandering that is their 'music'. I mean these guys are only a little older than me and yet they've spent their entire career trying to recreate their parent's fantasy world of a Beatles that never broke up. Thus despite all their contrived arrogance Oasis are favourites with all the mums and dads who remember when all this Rock Attitude was still shocking. Oasis therefore are no more shocking or genuinely 'rock' than Celine Dion with big side burns and a two day growth.

Then there is the haunting combination of Casio keyboard and half the string section of the London Philharmonic that passes as music on their albums. There is a simple reason Oasis use so many strings — like tomato sauce on a meat pie they cover up the fact that the filling is made of dog testicles and cow sphincters. I always feel so terribly sorry for the poor classical musicians Oasis subject, on a daily basis in the studio, to the aural equivalent of sticking a pin up your urethra. Listen closely because there is a strange background noise in all Oasis tracks that sounds like a lead pipe being dragged on concrete. A clever, Phil Spectoresque sonic trick employed by a deft producer in an attempt to try and unify the band's 'sound'? No, it's the grating of teeth

being made by an unfortunate member of the Academy of Saint Martin in the Fields as he sits desperately trying to stop himself from getting up and smashing his Stradivarius over Liam's head. I can hear him now... "You fucking stupid cunt!" he screams, taking his viola and wedging it upper Noel's date. "The reason I trained all my god damn life to play this fucking thing was not so that you could come in and make me play T Rex's 'Get it On' and then watch as Vox magazine calls you the greatest songwriter in Britain".

Put simply, Oasis, by embracing all the biggest rock cliches in history, do nothing more than set themselves up as the Herman's Hermits of the 90s. Just like Herman and his execrable band the Gallagher boys have got the suits, they've got the look, they've got the haircuts and the pre-meditated one liners that are so ludicrously unfunny and non-threatening they make me yearn for the days of Paula Abdul, but they don't have any dedication to their cause. The entire thing is a cynical sham. This is particularly well illus-

trated by the brothers' attempts to get serious and 'back to their roots' in a couple of hysterical acoustic versions of their songs that have been doing the rounds lately. In the video the two boys sit in a dilapidated shed strumming a guitar and pretending that they feel an affinity with Woody Guthrie. Gently they close their eyes as they ponder the depth and enormity of their lyrics. Slowly they clap their hands in a 'couldn't give a fuck it's the music that counts' manner, bighting their bottom lips gently, their little noses quivering ever so slightly as they hit a bit that's a particularly good rip off of someone else. The utter lameness of this scene cannot be over-stated. Trying to say that they look like a couple of dumb, talentless toss pots is like trying to say that Hitler was a bit of a meany.

We all know why it is that Oasis suck so very much, but what can we do about it? We can stop buying the waste of plastic known as Oasis albums and the interminable singles that not only go for at least 80 minutes, but come in waves of five piles of steaming shit at a time. But Vinegar Tits is not happy for it to end there. I want Oasis dead. So next time there's a possibility of a near fatal accident I want the 'near' taken out of the equation. So next time I'm flying the helicopter... or driving the tank, or the black Mercedes, or the kamikaze plane or the... well let me have my dreams at least.

—VINEGAR TITS

# 1997 Students' Association Elections



take me to your

*leader*

(above) Totalitarian dictators, the mentally ill, leaders of the free world, and past Students' Association presidents — but which is which?

## ticket blurbs

### It's About Time

Student Representative Council members are usually recruited by students aspiring to high office in the Students' Association. They are mostly students who had never given much thought to running for the SRC until approached by a friend who knew what was going on. This means the standard of SRC representation has never been as high as it could have been.

*It's About Time* are six students interested in being SRC members for its own sake. We are not part of a bid to win control of the Students' Association executive. We came together because we want to represent and help students in things that affect them every day of uni life.

The Students' Association has struggled to build an education campaign which is inclusive of ordinary students. There have been so many rallies organised by the ISO and Resistance that it is hard for the ordinary student to know which ones are worth going to. You never know whether or not the demonstration is going to end up smashing windows. The SA has organised mainstream rallies but they have not been able to set them apart enough from all the others. As SRC members we will strive to achieve this.

In 1998 the SRC will be able to make decisions on its own. Up until this year it has only been able to advise the Executive and General Meetings on what the policy of the Students' Association should be. As a result, next year's SRC must be more representative of student opinion. Voting for *It's About Time* candidates will help make sure all views are represented and the right decisions are made in the end.

An SRC ticket unconnected to the executive elections is a great opportunity to keep the Students' Association representative and responsible. Vote for *It's About Time*.

### Activate!

It's time to make the Students'

Association fight for our rights! In these elections, one word is likely to be missing from most of the stuff you read — activism. Most of the tickets running will ignore the real issues facing students in this period, attacks on education funding, rising racism, discrimination against women, gays and lesbians. Under the supposed banner of being "responsible and accountable" they will also be ignoring the best ways to fight back — broad inclusive campaigns that encourage students to participate and organise against the attacks. The most responsible and accountable role that a Student's Association can play is to make it easy for students to get involved and also provide resources and facilities for campaigns. Activate! are a group of students involved in the Education Action Group, which has been campaigning against fees and cuts to education, including the recent proposed staff cuts. Many of us have also been involved in campaigning on a wide range of other issues — organising anti-racism demonstrations against Pauline Hanson, participating in committees for 'Reclaim the Night' and International Women's Day, speaking out for gay and lesbian rights and organising actions in support of Independence for East Timor and Democracy for Indonesia. We are committed to these campaigns and will bring this commitment to the Students' Association, increasing awareness of all these issues through publications, forums and actions. We want a Students' Association that students can and do get involved in, since any organisation is only as effective as its membership. If students participate in their student unions then these unions can be a strong force fighting for their rights. For these and other reasons, Activate! also supports ANU's affiliation to NUS, so that all universities can have a coordinating body to help run national campaigns. **ACTIVATE NOW!**

### Democrat Students' Club

The Democrat Students' Club is up front and honest because

we feel voters deserve it. We don't hide behind silly names — we let you know who we are, and what we stand for. Besides, we have no reason to be ashamed of our politics.

We are running quality people in the jobs we know they can do well. We don't fill positions for the sake of it. Quality coupled with experience and enthusiasm is what's important for the Students' Association.

The Democrats have always represented a broad cross section of the community. Our ticket isn't confined to law students and members of the Debating Society (although we have some of those too!). Our team includes people from most of the faculties and from a wide variety of clubs — from ANURPS to Jellybabies. We will listen to everyone and we won't dismiss your problems because they aren't our problems.

The Democrat Students' Club is experienced and enthusiastic. We want to make university fun by organising the best possible social calendar, but we won't lose sight of the primary reason for being at the ANU — getting a quality education. We want an accountable and responsible SA, but we don't want Clubs and Departments to tie themselves up in knots or fill in a thousand forms to be able to access what should rightfully be theirs. We want students to feel comfortable with the SA and to know that if you need support, advocacy or just to make sure your essay is printed out on time, you can come and see us.

The SA is crying out for a new enthusiastic team to inject some life into it. The Democrat team is what's needed to re-invigorate the SA and the ANU — we'll make it happen.

### Socialist Workers' Student Club

At the ANU we have already seen the madness of user-pays education continue to ruin our education. We have seen around the country up front fees, increased HECS, Austudy cuts, job cuts, overcrowding, course closures. The ANU is no different. The

SWSC argues that it is not just enough to vote for SA candidates in elections but that we have to build a militant organisation to defend our rights in and outside of the university. That is why as Socialists we argue for the most militant and political campaign possible and for winning workers' support on and off campus. Students and workers united can beat user-pays education.

We stand for the right of free access to education for all people throughout their lifetime. We believe that education under capitalism is an essential part of liberating people from the drudgery of everyday life.

We need a student movement that does not curry favour with VCs or look to the Mal Colstons of this world to bail us out in the Senate. The experience of Labor groups from 1983 to 1996 shows why we cannot wait for an ALP victory to save us. It is through mass direct action that students can forge alliances with campus workers and stop the flow of market madness. Socialist Worker Student Clubs were at the heart of the occupations of ANU, UTS, Melbourne Uni and RMIT. A minority with a clear idea about what to do to make a decisive difference.

It is not enough to just vote in the SA elections, we have to build a revolutionary socialist organisation which can intervene in the everyday struggle of students and workers against the Liberals and argue not just for the next step in the campaign but for socialism.

Students should vote for Ben Halliday EXCEEDED WORD LIMIT

### Voice

VOICE is a diverse group of students who have been actively involved in all areas of campus life and want to make the Students' Association a vibrant, inclusive and representative body. VOICE is uniquely placed to represent student concerns. VOICE has the diversity to organise rallies students want to be a part of, the experience to lobby the university effectively and are independent of party political agendas. VOICE also has the people to build a bigger so-

cial life.

### Student Activism

Protests can be effective if they gain positive media coverage, have a clear theme and are not hijacked by extreme political ideologies. VOICE members are committed to inclusive and innovative rallies like the Austudy Wedding, held in first term to protest against the reductions in access to independent Austudy and the Day of Defiance against Arts Faculty cuts. Rallies will only be successful if students want to be a part of them — VOICE will continue to endeavour to make it so.

### Representation

Student representatives can influence university decision making if they take their responsibilities seriously. VOICE members have the experience to keep the University honest. On the SRC, they have responded to issues like up-front fees, Internet access and staff cuts. On the Board of the Faculties, they have scrutinised course restructuring proposals and have pushed through supplementary exams. On Faculty committees, they have spoken to Heads of Departments about health and safety issues and the effects of staff cuts.

### Social Life

VOICE candidates have already made campus life a blast — they brought you this year's O-Week. They've also organised events like the Century Challenge and the Law Ball so they know how important it is for the SA to promote Clubs and Societies on campus. Next year, VOICE is committed to reviving the traditions of Bush Week.

### The Luke Party

We the members of the Luke Party stand to admire the awesome presence that the one and only great Luke holds, and to exalt the great and many virtues that Luke himself puts forward to you the voter.

#### Word Limits

Ticket Statements:  
300 words  
President:  
250 words  
All other statements:  
150 words

## president



### Luke de Sailly

#### The Luke Party

Being the executive director of nothing for the ANU Challenge club, when voted in, I will make absolutely sure that I will do positively NOTHING for the students and staff of this university.



### Natalie Zirngast

#### Activate!

As a Third Year Arts student, I have seen massive attacks to our education system over the period of my degree. What has also been clear is the need for students to get involved in defending our rights, as we can't rely on either governments or university administrations to look after our best interests. The current 'restructuring' of the university system and the move towards 'user pays' looks set to destroy many faculty areas, especially in the arts, and the encroaching introduction of up front fees will stop the less privileged groups in society from gaining an education. I have been involved in the Education Action Group since its formation and firmly believe students should fight to stop our

education system returning to the 1950s. As a member of the Resistance Club on campus I have also been involved in campaigning around a whole range of issues, from women's rights to anti-racism and will bring this experience to my position as president.

My view is that the Students' Association needs to be a strong voice for students rights, but also as inclusive as possible. Issues such as racism, sexism and homophobia as well as education issues need to be clearly and visibly taken up by the SA. Also, the SA needs to be much more democratic, with more student input. **ACTIVATE!** will achieve this by creating more accessible forums and collectives for students to have their say.

**ACTIVATE!** and get involved in your SA!



### Harry Greenwell

#### Voice

Thinking about our Federal Government makes me angry and depressed. That's why I ran for General Secretary with **COUNTERATTACK** last year. This year I'm running for President with **VOICE** because I believe that the only way the SA can attract student support is to make sure that it's representative and it actually does something for students. We began that process this year but it's something I want to continue.

As General Secretary this year I assisted in organising and publicising the Austudy Wedding and the Day of Defiance against cuts to the Arts Faculty. Both rallies had a clear theme, drew large crowds and avoided being hijacked by extreme ideologies. I also helped President Matt

Tinning write papers opposing up-front fees, course restructuring and staff cuts. It was shortly after Matt presented his up-front fees paper to the Resources Committee that the Vice-Chancellor decided not to introduce more fees for undergrads.

This year Matt and I rewrote the SA's Constitution, introducing the new positions of Education Officer and Social Officer and reforming the SA structure. I hope that this will mean that future administrations are able to represent students even better than currently.

Last year's administration left Treasurer Amanda Frost-Drury, Matt and I with a deficit of \$22,000. We've implemented a new accounting system and introduced measures to cut wastage of photocopying, postage and phone privileges which should reduce the deficit to \$4,000 by the end of this year.

## treasurer



### Jonathan Tonge

#### Democrat Students' Club

I nominate for the position of Students' Association Treasurer because I believe that I have the knowledge, experience, enthusiasm and care so vital for the efficient running of an organisation vital for ALL students.

Knowledge — having run a small business for six years I KNOW that every cent counts;

Experience — this is my third university campus and my third involvement in student politics. I am a reluctant player but will always stand up to be counted, and bring

my experience, energy and Enthusiasm to achieve equality, opportunities and access for all;

Care — over the years I have continually fought HECS, up-front fees and changes to Austudy as well as environmental and social issues that threaten our future.

With the Democrats team I plan to continue fighting for an investment into Australia's future and use my skills gained whilst working for Senator Natasha Stott Despoja to produce an effective outcome for all.



### Roland Layton

#### Voice

I am a fourth year economics/commerce mature-age student. Since starting at ANU I have had a vague idea of this thing called the Students' Association, however I have not actually known exactly what it does. Since being asked to run with **VOICE** I have discovered that the SA has a large responsibility for the advancement of student issues on and off the campus. I believe to be taken seriously the SA requires sensible financial management and accountability. As treasurer I will facilitate increased accountability by beneficiaries of SA monies and aim to institute programmes to minimise wastage and ensure value for money from SA spending. More generally, I would like to see increased casual social events around campus, such as live entertainment on market days, and the presentation of student issues in a responsible, non-violent manner likely to gain positive acceptance by university management and the public at large.

## Stephen Jones

#### Activate!

I am a part-time student currently in my third year of a Science degree. As an active member of the EAG I've taken part in policy meetings, building and attending rallies on National Days of Action against the Liberal's attacks on education. I'm committed to the creation of an activist Students' Association, one that will oppose this government's attempts to destroy what's left of the education system. An SA that builds, and importantly funds, mass action in support of students and staff is essential. As Treasurer I will operate on the principle of "to each according to their need". Defence of students' rights to fair education must come before Liberal cocktail parties. NUS affiliation is *not* part of this defence and I therefore will oppose any attempt at affiliation.

## general secretary



### Jason Wood

#### Democrat Students' Club

Why should Jason Wood get your vote?

If Jason is elected:

- a) meetings will be efficient and effective, recognising that substance is more important than procedure;
- b) all efforts will be made to ensure that YOU, as members, are kept properly informed; and
- c) any paperwork is appropriate and timely.

This will ensure that your SA executives work for YOU.

Jason would bring to the SA a wealth of knowledge and experience from his involvement in other student organisations, namely, the Union and SA at UCan and NUS. Currently, Jason is a class representative for Philosophy and Political Science and serves on the SA Education Committee.

We need and deserve a General Secretary who:

- a) is committed to students;
- b) knows what he/she is doing;
- c) is an effective and efficient Chair; and
- d) can get the job done allowing the SA to... make it happen for YOU!



## Erin Killion

### *Activate!*

A good Students' Association is one which addresses issues facing students, organises and encourages students to fight for their rights.

I have been involved in the Education Action Group fighting attacks on education, am a member of Resistance and have been active in a number of campaigns.

The current position of women on campus concerns me. Cuts to education disproportionately affect women and cuts to campus security have created concerns for the safety of women and other oppressed groups on campus. Also, the current system for dealing with harassment on the basis of sexuality needs to be improved. Also, students need to be educated to fight homophobia on campus.

ACTIVATE! is committed to fighting for the rights of women, gays and lesbians. I intend to fulfil this commitment by taking an active role in the organisation of actions, and use my position to improve conditions for oppressed groups on cam-



## Douglas Guilfoyle

### *Voice*

The Students' Association can only fulfil its many roles if it runs smoothly. In particular, it is important for SRC and General Meetings to be well publicised and to be run in a way which facilitates debate. Having been General Secretary in 1996, I've already had some experience in trying to make the SRC a more effective representative body. I think things can be even better next year because this year's constitutional reform will give the SRC a much greater role to determine the direction of the SA. I am also enthusiastic about being involved with VOICE next year because I believe that a non-aligned, independent group will be better able to represent students without being distracted by irrelevant party political agendas.

## education officer



## James Connor

### *Democrat Students' Club*

I'm James Connor, President of the Democrat Students' Club. I am a third year Arts/

Science student with a strong commitment to accessible education for all.

The Democrats have always been committed to free, fair and accessible education and we want to bring that experience to the ANU. This year I and other Democrat Students have been instrumental in organising and publicising rallies, among other things through poster, lecture bashing and talking to the media. I believe that students must find the most effective way possible to get their message across and I will run inclusive campaigns to show the university administration — and the Government — what ANU students think.

To make the most of their time and Uni, students need to be able to access facilities. At the moment our libraries and out IT services are definitely lacking. The Democrat Students' Club will ensure this is fixed.



## Lara Shevchenko

### *Voice*

Continued activism is required in order to promote and defend student interests. The question is: what is the best way to promote student concerns?

Successful protests must be well-publicised and colourful, have clear themes and interesting speakers who stick to the point. The recent Day of Defiance against Arts Faculty cuts, organised by myself and other VOICE candidates, attracted large crowds because it met these criteria. Protests like April's 'Austudy Wedding' are also effective in attaining positive media coverage.

Lobbying is also essential, especially at the University level. VOICE and I are committed to actively monitoring university committees to ensure that if issues arise which adversely affect students, the SA will be ready to respond. Finally, I hope to continue the good work of this year's Education Committee, who organised Whinge Week as a means of student consultation. Vote VOICE for effective, inclusive, dynamic representation.



## David Gosling

### *Activate!*

I've studied Asian Studies here since 1995. Over the last two years I've been part of the campaign against the Liberals' education cuts and the VC's attempts to pass these on to students and staff. The sackings in Arts are just one of a series of attacks on quality, accessible education. Students have to fight these cuts, and fight to win. Mass action can stop the cuts, by making them too politically costly to implement, through rallies, pickets and other actions.

The Education Officer should be an important part of this campaign. An ACTIVATE! EO would convene regular education collective (EAG) meetings, providing a forum accessible to all students willing to fight the cuts. The EO also has to liaise and co-operate with the staff unions, whose solidarity will be vital. It's also necessary to think nationally, and to work with NUS. But don't just vote — Get Active!

## social officer



## Haidi Willmot

### *Voice*

So, what could your social vice president do for you? The answer is ANYTHING! If I can imagine it, it can happen, but more importantly, if you can dream it, I can make it happen.

Some of the ideas I have already are: A beneath the stars dance party with a huge summer bon fire; to give Union Court a bit of energy and excitement, by lunch time entertainment; to make O-Week and bush week as great as they can be; to get going an annual uni-wide theatrical production to be staged in the Arts Centre; to set up an in-house radio station in the Union Building; A multi-cultural festival, to celebrate the diversity we have on campus. MOST IMPORTANTLY I intend to find out what you want, because it is YOUR Student Association, I want YOU INVOLVED!



## Katherine Giles

### *Democrat Students' Club*

Hi I'm Katherine Giles Democrats Candidate for Social Officer. I am in my third year of



an Arts/Law Degree. After attending Newcastle University in 1995 and helping to organise Australia's biggest O-Week and other activities, I realise that ANU should be about both gaining a world class degree and being involved in campus activities, social or political.

In 1998 the Democrat Students' Club will be really Making it Happen using both experience and enthusiasm for the job. A bigger and better O-Week, O-Ball, raves, market days, DJs, band nights, boiler rooms, celebrations during Environment week, Bluestocking week, and a Huge Halfway party after mid-year exams. Followed by a huge Bush week, and end of year extravaganza.

To make sure that everyone knows about these and other club/social activities, fortnightly events newsletters will be printed so everyone can get involved. Accessibility, Responsibility, Accountability, Democrats EXCEEDED WORD LIMIT

## general reps



### Andrew Doyle

#### Voice

As a candidate for VOICE, I stand for effective representation of students through concerted lobbying of the University and well-planned campaigns against regressive Government or University policies. In particular, as an Arts student, I see the decimation of my department, indeed any other on campus, as criminal. As a result, if I am elected I will try to VOICE the concerns of all those who are shocked

at the possible loss of any department at the ANU.

If elected as General Representative, I would see myself as a cipher for other students' problems and grievances. Consequently, I will be as accessible as possible to all students.

Vote for VOICE and myself for active, accessible representation.



### Joanne Erskine

#### Voice

I am a second year student studying Forestry and I live oncampus at Burton and Garran Halls and I am running for General Rep with Voice. I was one of the Forestry Departmental Committee members for my year in 1996 and 1997 and am a member of the Mountaineering Club. As a student I would like to see more social events which can be enjoyed by all students and I feel that Voice can offer this and much more to the student population. Through the students' Association Voice can offer a great deal of support to students as well as make university life more enjoyable.



### Owain Fenn

#### Voice

I'm Owain Fenn, president of the ANU Challenge Club and I'm standing for General Rep-

resentative on the SRC.

My main objectives are to increase the number of clubs and societies on campus, increase the funding for clubs and societies and increase the funding for O-Week and Bush Week events.

In my experience at ANU, the Clubs and Societies, Bush Week and O-Week are the things that bring people together the most, so I hope to increase them in size to improve university life.

VOICE will ensure that next year we have bigger and better social events. In particular, VOICE will publish a regular Calendar of Events publicising and promoting events organised by Clubs and Societies, and by the SA.

I'm Owain Fenn and I stand for the social enjoyment of all.



### Fiona Gardner

#### Voice

I am a first year student who likes to get involved in Uni life and know what's happening around the place. Being a General Representative would give me the opportunity to have more of an input and be more involved with events like O-Week and Bush Week. In 1998 I would like to see more students become aware of the SA and the people that are there for them. I would really like to see as many people as possible getting out there and having fun by becoming more involved in the various activities that will be around next year. There is sure to be something that everyone can be a part of and enable them to be themselves. VOICE are a terrific group of people who have us, the students, in mind and will do their very best to make the SA "user friendly".

### Jeanie Hayden

#### Voice

The SA needs enthusiastic, active people to confront an uncaring university. I believe that the only way to convince the University's senior officers to improve student services is to have students constantly reminding them that looking after students is a big part of what university is about. I'm very concerned about the University's rigid and narrow budgeting system which has produced absurd proposals like the cuts to the Arts Faculty. Also, I am keen to reinvigorate the University's Student Employment and Careers Services which are currently being neglected by the University.

Vote for me for vibrant and active representation.



### Catherine O'Brien

#### Voice

The Students' Association is the primary way that student's voices are heard. I believe that a good SA is one which represents the views and concerns of all students and is able to effectively present these views to the university, the government and the public. To do this the SA needs to be a professionally run body which focuses on the real issues.

My goal as your representative is to see this vision achieved. I do not see myself as a 'student politician'; I am not interested in petty point scoring against Labor, Liberal or Socialist. I am running in this election because there are serious concerns which threaten our education and we need an independent and committed team of students to deal with these issues.



### Robb Preston

#### Voice

As a member of the Crapsters (say who?)... well I'll tell you... It all began in the tumultuous days of O-Week 1996 when...



### Alex Roose

#### Voice

Grievances, concerns, troubles and botherations! Students have truckloads of 'em. As an SRC member I'll ensure that all students have a VOICE, and that we address all your concerns. I wanna hit the streets and find out what you want from your SA. I'll continue to fight against the commercialisation of Higher Education in this country, campaigning against cuts to Arts, reduction of Library facilities and dodgy course 'restructuring'. I don't want world or even national revolution, I just want a decent education. But most importantly, Uni is supposed to FUN!! That's why I'll be joining with my vocal colleagues in making O-Week, Bush Week and market days absolutely HUGE!

But everyone spouts all this rhetoric. Why should you vote for me? 'Cos I'm just your average ordinary kind 'o guy with enough know-how, experience and drive to deliver the goods, and EXCEEDED WORD LIMIT (well, nearly).



## Owen Saddler

### Voice

Why do I want to be in politics? To channel my tremendous energy, enthusiasm, and zest for life into a force for the good of all mankind. Because I have a vision for the future of the ANU student union; I believe it can be the best damn union in all of Texas. To hang out with student politicians, because they're a barrel of laughs. To yell a lot in public gatherings and kid myself that people are listening. To find out the meaning of the word "mandate". To have another great way to procrastinate. To help persuade the government and the VC that they are jeopardising their and our future through their short sighted and narrow minded policies on higher education. To ensure that 1998 goes down as the most exciting year in Australian politics, student or otherwise, since 1975. Because, ultimately, I am still idealistic.



## Stephen Schneider

### Voice

As a student representative, I would be keen to enhance the reputation of the Students' Association and to ensure it provides the best possible rep-

resentation to the student body. Ensuring students' rights and the provision of the best possible services and facilities on campus are two areas I am committed to. The continuing success of O-Week, increasing the popularity of Bush Week and offering a wide social programme to the university are also among the priorities I have in standing for election. As I am non-party affiliated I intend to work with and represent the general student populous, addressing their needs and continuing to ensure that they continue to receive the best the ANU has to offer.



## Nick Westcott

### Voice

I am running for the SRC with VOICE to get a better deal for students, promote the Students' Association and the social life of all students at the ANU. I believe the social life at uni has been suffering because of all the government cut backs and although it is important to fight these it is also important to increase the number of social events held throughout the year, particularly during O-Week and Bush Week. Through my involvement with the Challenge Club for two years I have organised a number of big events including co-organising this year's Sports Day during O-Week and the Century Challenge during Bush Week. It is really important that students with experience help organise the big events at ANU and I believe that VOICE and I can achieve that.



## Caroline Wilke

### Voice

As a third year Arts/Law student I, like many of you, feel that I am not getting my money's worth from the university. This has led me to run for a general representative position. Clearly the needs of undergraduate students are being compromised by other areas of the university and my goal is to see this rectified for the benefit of all. Speed humps and oval maintenance are not more important than lecturers and library facilities. As a student representative I plan to be one of many strong voices making the administration accountable. I also want to see stronger student advocacy facilities and to provide an avenue for students' complaints. We all want jobs when we get into the 'real world' and so I will propose policies to maintain the educational integrity of ANU and to make our time here as rewarding and stress-free as possible.



## Andra Putnis

### Activate!

I am a 2nd year Arts/Law student. I have been involved in campaigning against staff cuts and attacks on education at this university. I am a member of the Education Action

Group and through my involvement in this group have become aware of how important it is to have an active student union on campus. A student union that is willing to ACTIVELY protect student's rights and is willing to take notice of student issues. That is why I joined this Activate! ticket. I believe it is important for a student union to take a stance and campaign for an anti-racist, anti-homophobic equal campus. A student union willing to stand up and protect students against education cuts is a necessity. ACTIVATE your student union.



## Chris Williams

### Activate!

Cuts to education funding implemented by the Liberal government represent a serious attack on the quality of higher education and our access to it. Up-front fees are fast becoming a reality and now, more than ever, students need to organise. Together with workers and high-school students we need to maintain a fighting campaign that can defeat the cuts and defend our education. I have been involved with the ANU Education Action Group since the start of the year, and as an activist building the campaign have been disgusted by the current Students' Association's lack of support for fighting against the education cuts. I am standing for a Students' Association that will actively campaign around all issues affecting students. I also believe in offering solidarity to other students around the world. As a member of Resistance, I have been involved in a range of campaigns, including the student, EXCEEDED WORD LIMIT

## Nahgual Bell

### Activate!

NO STATEMENT SUBMITTED

## Alvaro Santos

### Activate!

I am an Asian Studies/Economics student who has been involved with Resistance, the Education Action Group and the Campaign Against Racism. A Students' Association which claims to defend students' interests needs to be actively involved in the fight against racism, and other campaigns for basic rights. We need to work with campus groups like the Jabal Centre and the International Students' Association to educate students against racism through forums on topics like immigration or land rights, as well as to mobilise for and support the fight against racism, whether it is overt or covert, on campus and off.

This is best achieved through exercising our rights to freedom of speech, and through mobilising the largest number of people to defeat racism ideologically. The SA should be committed to peaceful demonstrations against racist figures, and to making the links between campaigns against the education cuts and the cuts to Abstudy.



## David Baker

### Democrat Students' Club

To deal with the basics first, I am a first-year science/law student and I live at B&G. I am running for a position as general representative mainly because I am concerned at the number of students who do not believe they get any return from their money that goes to the Students' Association. As a member of the SRC my goal will be to ensure that by December 1998 every student will know that the Students' Association have done something for them. I will support new activities including the O-ball and student advocacy; I

will work to increase the profile of existing services such as the Environmental Department and the Secondhand Bookstore (ever heard of them?) and to rejuvenate activities such as Bush Week. When I'm not busy doing this, I will be a patient listener and a faithful relayer of student opinion, both on the SRC and in general.



## Rachel Hopkins

*Democrat Students' Club*

If you hate rhetoric, the self-righteous and issue-of-the-week bandwagons, then we must be kindred spirits. Consider me your bullshit detector. It would be my great privilege to represent all those on campus who would like to see student politics step beyond the realm of the ineffectual into relevant. The irritating background hum which usually characterises campus political activities, has to be recalibrated by a group of new people who have, at some stage in their lives, taken time out to visit the real world. Most importantly, the concerns of the student population must be pre-eminent. In 1998 I'll be 4th year Arts student, which, due to recent events, amply qualifies me in the recognition of Chancelry hatchet jobs. Everyone knows crap flows down stream, and with your help, I'd be happy to selflessly fling myself in the path of future acts of pollution. (For moral questions, see dictionary — Angelic)

## Jason Aitchison

*It's About Time*

NO STATEMENT SUBMITTED

## Jason Cebalo

*It's About Time*

NO STATEMENT SUBMITTED



## Rodd Messent

*Democrat Students' Club*

Basically I am running because I am enthusiastic and care about fighting for issues that concern all students, as well as those who feel marginalised or under-represented.

Having experience as the President of Jellybabies, as well as being involved in the Canberra Cross Campus Sexuality Network, I believe that I am capable of fighting for such issues thoroughly and successfully.

I feel running in conjunction with the ANU Student Democrats is important as it offers the most cohesive and varied ticket to ensure all students are represented.



## Nick Prosser

*Democrat Students' Club*

I am Nick Prosser, a second year Science student. I'm studying Comp Sci and Maths. I will be running for the position of General Representative. I think that the Students Association should be something that represents all students from all the faculties on campus, instead of being controlled by Law students and Debating Society members. I will attempt to see that the needs of science students are met.



## Llewellyn Reynders

*Democrat Students' Club*

I'm a second year Arts/Science student currently studying Psychology and Anthropology. Amongst other things, I have represented students on the Psychology Department Board, and represented Australia in an International Science Olympiad, and feel my experience in representation, especially in a multi-cultural environment would help me represent others on the SA. On campus, I am a member of the Debating Society, Narcissus, the Fine Arts Club, the ANU Boat Club and of course, the Democrats Student Club. I am concerned about discrimination on campus and the environment, as well as problems of representation on the SA, and the downward spiral in the quality of education, all of which I hope to help improve if elected.



## Adele Tate

*Democrat Students' Club*

Hi, my name's Adele, I am a third year Arts student majoring in music history and political science, and am continuing studies with political science honours next year. I would like to be on the SA because I would like to see the S.A. relating better to the student body. I was on the faculty of arts board last year giv-

ing me opportunity to voice student concerns, I am an active member of the Democrats Student Club and I live on campus (Fenner Hall). Of course I also harbour a deep desire to control the universe in its luscious entirety and feel that being on the SA is a perfect stepping stone to this end.



## Andrew Vance

*Democrat Students' Club*

Hi. My name is Andrew Vance, and I'm running for one of the general rep positions with the Democrat Student club ticket. I am in the second year of an arts/science degree, with most of my science points being computer science. I am a member of the current SRC, and have also been involved in protests against the regressive measures of the government and chancelry. I am running with this ticket because I believe that we are the best group to represent students, and present their views to those in power. The Democrats will make it happen.



## Nigel Williams

*Democrat Students' Club*

Greetings, my name is Nigel and I am a 3rd year info tech student. With the interests of the student population I mind and to irritate those bastard political types before I leave the ANU, I am offering myself up as a Gen Rep. I have been a member of de-

partmental committees and am currently a part of the TLTSO as a student liaison. I am also part of the CSSA executive as Technical Officer. For further info, see bar stool 42.



## Zoe Wilson

*Democrat Students' Club*

Hi! My name is Zoe Wilson and I am currently in my final year of an Arts/Economics degree, in which capacity I hope to return as an honours student next year. Having been at ANU for such a long time I have done the rounds of the residential college (and no-not in the sense that most ADFA boys would lay claim to).

Other credentials: Well, I have the dubious distinction of being awarded every grade the ANU administration can distribute... um...

Basically, I want to run for a Gen. Rep position because the Student Association is for students NOT young aspiring politicians.

We all ultimately want to leave this place with a degree — it is the SA's responsibility to ensure tis occurs with the maxim amount of freedom, frivolity and FUN!

## Kelly Milliken

*It's About Time*

NO STATEMENT SUBMITTED

## Stacey Wilkinson

*It's About Time*

NO STATEMENT SUBMITTED

## Alex Pollard

*It's About Time*

NO STATEMENT SUBMITTED

*continued on page 25*

bush week '97

# the thrill of the hunt



(above) Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja with scav hunt competitors — obviously as thrilled about it as they are

the ducks and the farm animals may have been a bit much, but the 1997 Scavenger Hunt proved that there are few lengths to which ANU students will not go for a \$500 tab at the Union. Woroni LAW and PAT BRAMMALL take a horrified look at the depths to which some people will stoop.



(above) Two competitors pose with... that guy... who does the thing... in that place... who used to play with things.



(above) MLA Michael Moore poses with a now retired Terry from Minder



(left) Political commentator Malcolm Mackerras refuses to predict the outcome SA elections

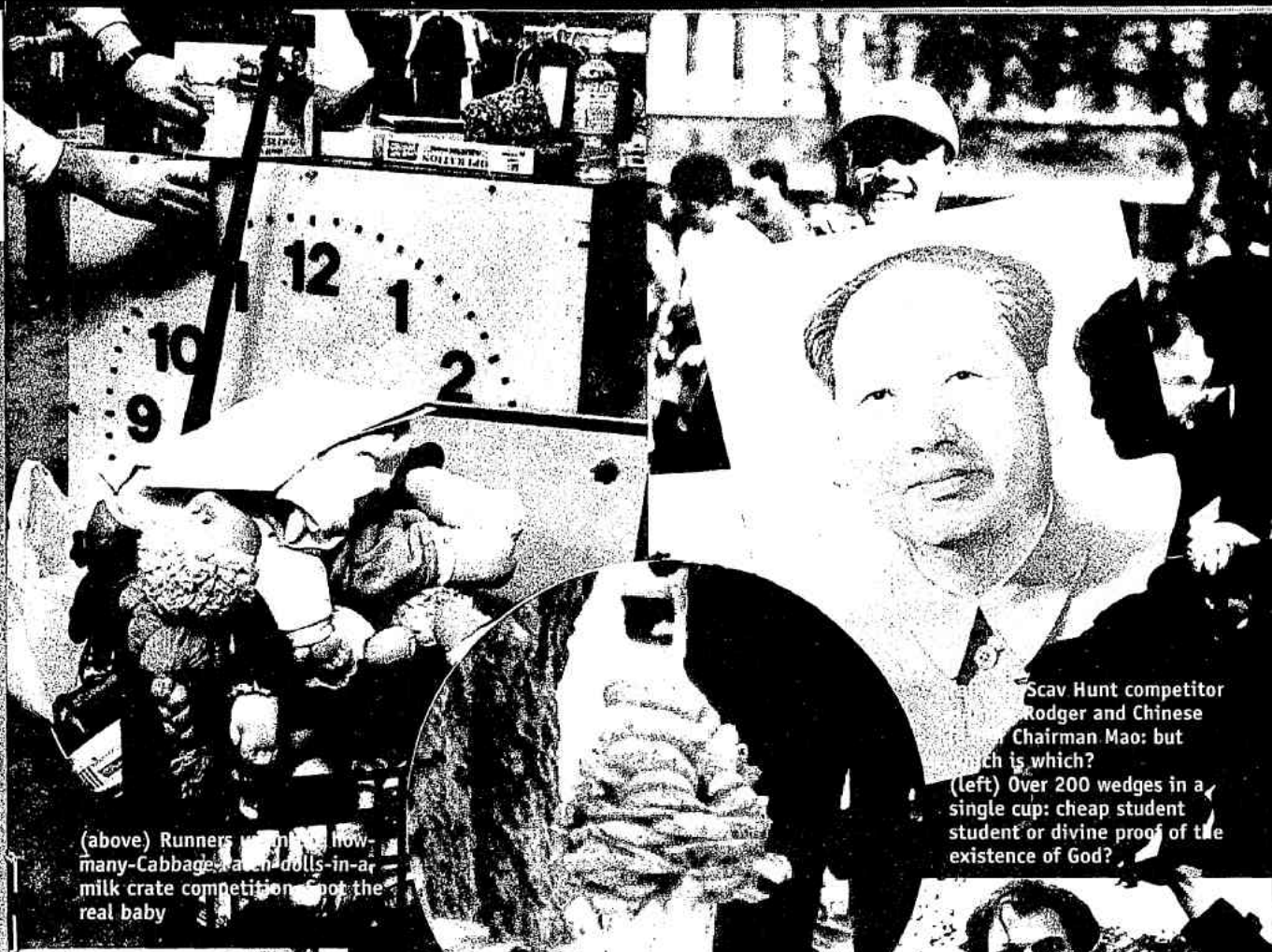


(below) Competitor prepares for her dive into ANU's own Bermuda Triangle

1997's scavenger hunt has come and gone with the pomp and ceremony of a flagging erection. As judges, we ran the gauntlet of emotions from a to b; sometimes intrigued, sometimes appalled and sometimes just plain nauseous. We have seen more cabbage patch dolls than Toys R Us, Casino Canberra pencils equivalent to seven Norwegian pine trees and more photographs of hairy arses than we ever need see again. Nonetheless, the most impressive thing was the common thread that linked all the competitors: far too much time on their hands.

A bevy of celebrities was presented at the judging desk including the always hip Trevor Kaine, the sometimes hip Michael Moore, and the never hip Paul Osbourne. Malcolm Mackerras made a stunning appearance in a sequined little black number. Paul Osbourne tried a similar stunt, but no-one was looking. The omnipresent Black Thunder made an unwelcome appearance, but refused to give us anything but FM104.7 stickers.

We were appalled by stunts — not so much that they were done, but to the lengths they were taken. Every team took the Sullivan's



(above) Runners in the how-many-Cabbages-was-in-a-dolls-in-a-milk crate competition. Not the real baby

Scav Hunt competitor Rodger and Chinese Chairman Mao: but which is which? (left) Over 200 wedges in a single cup: cheap student or divine proof of the existence of God?

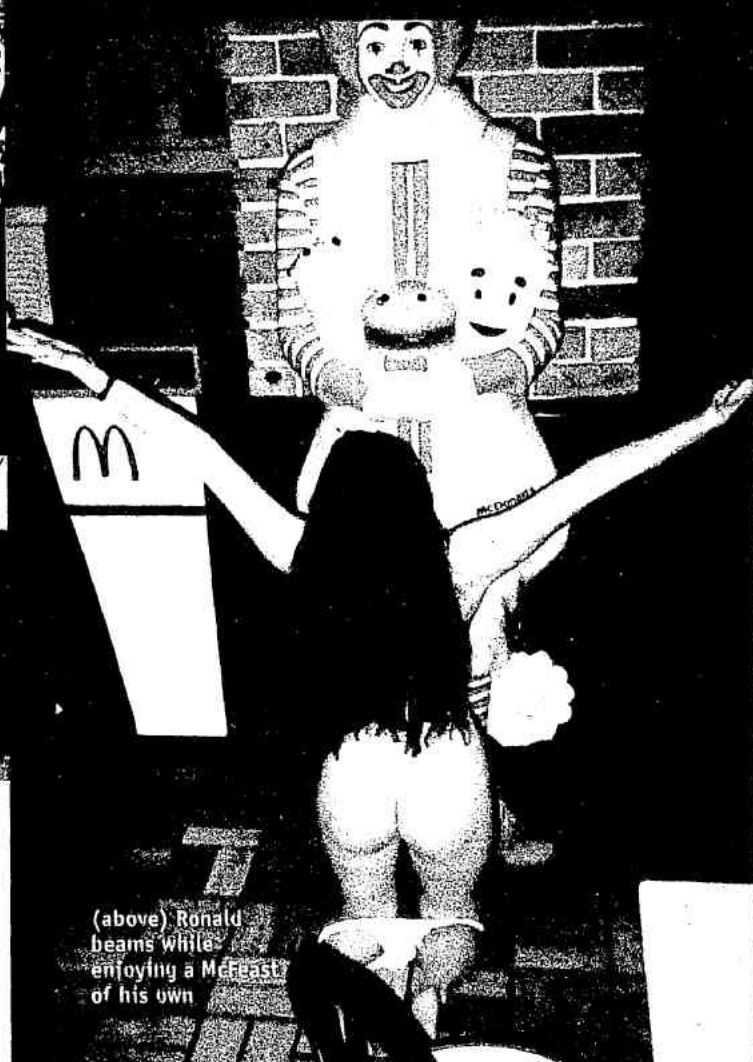


(above) "Crapsters" in the community person on Canberra's timepiece

(above) This casual passer-by was quickly snapped up by one of the teams. He was reported as saying "guys, I'm late for class already... stop laughing"



(above) Three arselholes at the tip



(above) Ronald beams while enjoying a McFeast of his own



(below) Three competitors put their dicks on the line for fame, glory, and a possible goal team

Creek Challenge, none so impressive as the fully equipped skin diver who, although suffering an almost fatal duck attack, is now recovering nicely. The street theatre was appalling, but no-one expected anything else. As regular patrons of the Refectory, we were inspired by the most-wedges-in-a-small-cup stunt, which yielded well over two hundred pieces of the dubious potato based product. Of all the stunts, perhaps the most regrettable was the consumption of four litres of cask wine between two team members. Credit must go the sick bastard that sculled three litres of the goon on his own. One of the judges was almost brought to tears at the witnessing of the final litre's resurrection.

Perhaps the trump of the day was the un-

veiling of the original Civic clock — a gargantuan task by anyone's standards. Stumbled upon in an ACTION bus driver's back yard, this coveted masterpiece of Canberran history yielded for its team one thousand points, and is irrefutable proof that ACTION does have some worth. Unlike Paul Osbourne. Apart from the big ticket items, the day brought gems of which we had only dreamed. The McCartney-Jackson "Say Say Say" single, a Cliff Richard throw rug, an oversized Chairman Mao portrait, members of The Brumbies choir, a working Operation board game and Magic Sand. It is the little things in life that are often the best.

As far as we were concerned, however, the day was a complete failure as we did not see one copy of Keanu Reeves' biography, *Keanu*.

PHOTOS BY NICK SHAW

(below) Booner triumph: Summernats competitor bearing an eerie similarity to Mick Molloy from *The Late Show*



WARR-440

# BOON ME UP

Boonerism is a phenomenon unique to Canberra, a fact illustrated by the ritual pilgrimage that so many make every year to Booner Mecca, Summernats. Rather than shunning or dismissing booner culture, however, *Woroni* believes we should attempt to understand and appreciate it. It is with such an air of anthropologic discovery, as well as with mingled feelings of scorn and affection that BRENDAN SHANAHAN confronts his own booner heritage, and explores the society and its story of the Canberra-booner. PHOTOS BY JASON RICHARDSON AND JAMES PAINTER.



(above) The youth of Queanbeyan: boon town or haven for the misunderstood?

**M**y first close encounter with the phenomenon known as "Boonerism" was a shock to my system. The start of my long career in Booner watching began at the age of 13 when I first moved with my parents to Canberra. At that point I had been to Catholic schools all my life so there was no question in either mine or my parents' mind about whether or not I would continue the tradition in my new Canberra home. It was with a degree of self-confidence that I began my high school years at St Edmund's College. This self-confidence was soon transformed into a realisation of my own naivety, however, when I'd discovered I'd hit Booner central.

In Canberra when one says "St Edmund's College" perhaps one could be forgiven for not instantly associating it with Booners; an enormous number of ADFA cadets perhaps, Canberra's largest group of Amway salesman, possibly, half the Australian Rugby team certainly, but not Booners. Wrong my friend! Why? Because if we get out our maps we may soon ascertain that Eddy's (as it's affectionately known, and God knows I feel so affectionately towards the dump) is in fact the closest Catholic school to Queanbeyan — Canberra's third arm of pure boonz. Not only that, but Catholic Booner parents, obviously bypassing Marist because of its infamous, and highly credible, "poof's paradise" label, decided to send little Corey, Nathan et al all the way from Wanniasa to Narrabundah every single day just so that they could give them the opportunity to reject the education they never had.

Before I moved to Canberra I had only heard vague tales of the extremities of Boonerism, because you see in Sydney, whilst I lived in a dump of a suburb that was literally next door to the airport, I went to a private school that, whilst quite second-rate, was located in the posh Eastern suburbs and was therefore just expensive enough to have tickets on itself. It was a school populated by incurable sooky boys whose darling mothers bred champion chitzu pug dogs. In this atmosphere the worst thing you could be called at school was not "faggot" or "cunt", or even "cock sucking faggoty cunt", but "Westy". I kid thee not, nothing was worse than Westy. Thus when I arrived for my first day at Eddy's it seemed to me as if someone had dug a Westy mine so deep they'd hit the molten Westy at the centre of the earth. It was from this point on that I began my journey into the Booner psyche. I'll still never forget that introductory maths class where Nathan from Queanbeyan, his black Metallica T-shirt showing through his white school shirt, picked an enormous booga from his nose, turned to me with it on his finger and said "Fucken good one 'ay!". "Yes Nathan", I thought as the premonition of my entire high school years flashed terribly before me, "a fuckin' good one".

In year 7 I witnessed some truly memorable Booner moments. One that I recall especially fondly was performed by Justin, again from Queanbeyan. This guy had all the hallmarks of a Big Time Booner. He regularly beat up the smaller Booners and got into a fist fight with a teacher at a school camp. He could slam dunk in year 7 (I am not exaggerating), had more body hair than I have now and more than two thirds of his head appeared to be skull — all his facial features being relegated to the position where most people's mouth's normally reside. One day, before our teacher had arrived in class, Justin proudly stood on his desk and announced to the twenty or so people in the room, "Ahh huh. I'm gunna gi meself a haircut!", at which point he extended to his full, considerable height and stuck his

head in a fast moving ceiling fan. "Ohhhh fuck!", he exclaimed and then started to laugh at himself whilst rubbing his head and saying, "that fucken urt". It was at that moment that I truly began to feel a degree of both respect and affection for Booners.

Don't get me wrong though, my experiences with Booners weren't all beer and skittles because I soon found that after a year of inexplicable popularity in year 7, my public profile went down hill faster than a Monaro GTS. Thus it was in about year 8 that I discovered Booners were actually very good at hitting people. Soon most of my spare time was spent ducking around and simultaneously provoking guys who wore T shirts under their school shirts that depicted a woman who'd been raped slumped unconscious in a back alley with "Guns and Roses waz here" spray painted on the wall above her body — for 14 year olds they were pretty mean. What I soon discovered however was that there was layers of Boonerism. The top layer were the kings of Booner. They were at the top because they were both physically enormous, occasionally certifiably psychotic and, most surprisingly of all, often extremely intelligent. There were only about five of these guys in our year, however, and I soon learnt that they got bored easily and would forget about an insignificant piece of shit like me after they'd slammed my head into a locker a couple of times. The lesson I was to learn was that it is the second layer of Booner of which one has to be wary.

These boys are embittered. They're not number one, they're usually not very bright and, individually, they're not all that tough. But once there was a group of four of them (plus one or two tag along footy heads for good measure) they were quite prepared to beat you mercilessly. Luckily they are mostly slow and stupid, so I avoided them for the most part but every now and again I wasn't quite so lucky. These second rung Booners are the ones I dislike the most and are what I like to call "Bourgeois Boonz". If the King Booners are Nelson or Curly from *The Simpsons*, then the Bourgeois Boonz are their tag along friend, the cowardly Jimbo Jones. All their dads are either builders or own smash repair shops or petrol stations. Their future is mostly assured in the family business, they're usually from quite stable homes and their only aim in life is to make money so that they can eat frozen meat pies whenever they want to. As one once replied to me as some sort of lame comeback to my mocking of his desert boots, "You better just fucken shut up Shanahan because I'm gonna have made so much more money than you by the time you're 21." It was a tragic day when I finally accepted that Corey's future was going to be full of so much more money, and therefore meaning, than my own pathetic existence.

In my school years to come I was to both befriend and simultaneously become increasingly embittered towards Booners, but there was one group of Booners that you could only feel sorry for — the third tier Booners, or 'ferrets' as I knew them. These guys had all the Booner trappings with none of the success. They had the dodgy bum fluff haircut, the Metallica T shirt, the tight black jeans for non-uniform days, sports carnivals or a day at the beach, but the difference between them and the other Booners was that no one, and I mean no one, liked them. As you would expect these guys were unpopular with the general population because they were scrawny little losers who had heads of mince and couldn't even crack jokes, but even more tragic was that they were actually completely disliked by

#### BOONER RELATIONSHIPS

- mutual abuse
- early pregnancy
- big age gaps

#### BOONER PASTIMES

- getting pissed in Woden cemetery
- burn outs
- Alchemist concerts
- hanging out in Riverside Plaza
- hanging out at Braddon petrol station
- hanging out in underpasses
- hanging out in playgrounds

#### BOONER ACCOUTREMENTS

- big dogs
- big cars
- smiley faces burnt into your arm
- perms
- "fairy floss yellow" hair
- multiple ear piercings
- foundation
- slut cut
- the mullet cut
- big, big, puffy fringe combined with a painfully tight ponytail
- full collection of *Street and Strip*

#### SIGNS THAT YOU'RE BOONER

- pregnancy by 16
- pregnancy fantasies
- tight black jeans
- eyeliner au-go-go
- the Guns and Roses t-shirt with the rape scene on the back
- your parents own a smash repair shop
- your parents still have bodgie haircuts
- your school year book sates your ambition in life as "To have a little black baby" and your best quote as being "G'day fellas" or "I need a smoke"
- you don't know the meaning of the word "booner"
- you have an inverted crucifix burnt into your chest
- you spell "fuckin'", "fucken"

#### BOONER CLOTHING

- flannies
- tight black jeans
- desert boots
- big white sneakers + football socks
- baggy woolen jumpers
- dope leaf earrings
- dagger pendants
- fuck bands
- acid wash anything
- tasseled anything
- white leather
- jeans with extraneous zips



(above and right) The car is an essential part of the booner psyche. The burn-out reflects a primitive desire for self-immolation, and is also a poignant metaphor for a dying culture. Plus it's, like, cool.

their so-called friends. The first tier Booners made no secret of the fact that they saw them as expendable entertainment for when they felt like beating some one up and the second tier only just tolerated them and would often outright deny that they even liked them if it came to sucking up the arse of a Big Booner.

One incident that summed up the schoolyard position of the third tier Booner occurred when our school, like most boys schools at one time or another, was going through a phase of "poling" people. For the uninitiated, poling is when two people grab either leg of the intended victim and then drag them on their back to a nearby pole (goal posts usually, but anything will do) and then run either side of it, thus ramming the victim's groin into the steel structure. When done properly this operation can, needless to say, cause great pain and, in extreme cases, hospitalisation (as happened in one famous incident at Daramalan College). So it was on one particular day, in an incident that I quite clearly remember, that I witnessed a ferrety little Booner get humiliatingly poled by his "friends". What was truly pathetic about the whole event was how this guy tried so desperately to make it look as if it was all one big joke and he was in on it and that it was in no way at his expense. He valiantly tried to stand up and say stuff like "Ohhhh fellas", attempting hopelessly to choke back the tears that he was obviously shedding whilst holding on to his shrivelled scrotum. At that point I must admit that I felt terribly sorry for him. Being a ferrety little Booner he was pretty small and even scrawnier than me, and for some reason he reminded me of an especially ugly version of my little brother — which made me feel particularly guilty. It was a truly pitiable sight.

Booner tough-guy hubris can, however, often be so ridiculous that it becomes extremely amusing. Some of the extremities to which Booners will go in order to prove their machismo credentials have the unintended consequence of sending non-Booners into paroxysms of laughter — like reading a "satanic" heavy metal magazine for the first time. Once, at a school camp, a ferret, obviously desperate to prove his hard-core "tough-as-nails" status to unsympathetic King Booners, approached my best friend, who, whilst a placid and relatively harmless guy, was approximately five times the size of this pesky Booner bug, and issued the following "challenge": "You're a fucken cock sucking fucken cunt 'n fucken faggot pussy arse fucken faggot cunt fucken woosy fucken faggot Chapman... and I'm gonna bash your mate Shanahan." Apart from the fact that even I could have quite easily dispensed with this spineless loser, the concept of abusing someone and then basically

running away with nothing but a threat to beat up someone else, brought tears of laughter to my face for years afterwards.

Another of Boonerism's big tests of manliness came in the form of the fad for brandings and home piercings. "Smiley faces" were regularly branded into the arms and hands of the tougher breed of Booners. The "smiley face" was achieved by heating up the end of a cigarette lighter and then pressing the hot metal into one's skin. The "eyes" of the face were

## THE FEMALE BOONER

Like her male counterpart, the female booner smokes, swears, and drinks until she vomits. She has an innate sense of school pride which often results in scraggs with girls from other schools. She refuses to take any shit from anyone, a principle that either results in physical violence or insults like "Sheena's a fuken bush-pig" and "Katrina's a lezzo" on the walls of the girls toilets. But many don't realise that the vehemence of her hatred has a flipside — a limitless capacity for love. She gives of herself to her thirty year old boyfriend, rewarded in full by lifts to school in his black Torana, free booze and the occasional slap to make sure she doesn't forget her place. "Cindy and Wazza — true luv 4 eva" could very well share wall space with "Sandra's got big hairy cuntflaps." A discerning appreciation for popular culture also characterises the booner girl. Tears can threaten her thick black eyeliner upon hearing songs like "When I see you Smile" by Bad English, "All I want to do is make love to you," by Heart, and many of the Gunners more introspective ballads.

So please, the next time you see a used condom in the underpass, spare a thought for the much-maligned booner girl.

— SARAH HUTCHINGS

the tops of the two flint wheels and the "mouth" was the semi circle of metal at the top of the lighter's fuel container. King Booners would regularly come to school with dozens of these things burnt into their arms, whilst the lesser Booners sported only one or two, which made them look conspicuously, and therefore amusingly, untough. The funniest branding however was done by the best of the King Booners. This guy was an amateur Satanist (naturally) and had decided that to compliment his Bible burning activities etc. he ought to burn an

upside down crucifix into his chest. This blurry, slightly infected effort to be "at one with Satan", whilst surely requiring an enormous degree of toughness, was so much of a ludicrous Spinal Tap cliché that I used to fall about laughing every time I thought about it (in secret of course).

As the years of my experiences with Booners seemed to grow on interminably, I felt I was learning more every day. Booner relationships, I found out, were entirely sexually driven and based on an attitude of mutual dislike. They would brag of how Cheryl so-and-so had let five of them have sex with her on the school cricket pitch and how little ferret number 22 had to "go slops". Or, in one memorable instance, someone came to school with scratches on his face and explained that Bindi so-and-so had called him a fucken cunt and scratched him, but it was okay 'cause he'd punched her back in the face.

Of course many of their stories were entirely invention, such as the infamous "12 chicks in a spa at once" bullshit that some meat head had circulated about himself. When it started to get really ugly was when verifiable stories about how some girl who was always reliable for a root had accidentally become pregnant to one of them and so paid the possible father ten bucks to punch her in the stomach for a backyard abortion. But this was Booner culture, and in a post-modern world where we can't make value judgements, whose to say they were behaving like a bunch of animals?

Now school has finished, my Booner watching activities extend only to hanging out at such places as the Las Vegas Pool Palace in Belconnen, Riverside Plaza in Queanbeyan or turning up to the national magnet of Old Time Boonerism, Summernats. But I have noticed a distinct and sad phenomenon that seems to have begun to affect the population of Booners that I grew to love. Gone seems to be the trend for heavy metal t-shirts, tight, tight black jeans, desert boots, flannies and the occasional inverted crucifix. These once unquestionable tenants of Booner culture have instead been replaced with dodgy pseudo alternative music, Adidas gear and flashy Japanese cars. Perhaps Boonerism survives now only in rural areas or small towns; as evidenced by the influx of true Booners that Summernats brings every year. But perhaps Boonerism is merely a state of mind. I know for instance that many of the hard core Booners from my old school have either gone quite public service or gone right over the edge (my favourite Booner became a punk and was at last word, unfortunately, on heroin). Whatever the case, Booners are a uniquely Canberra phenomenon (no where else are they known by that name) and as so, ought to be treasured.



◀ continued from page 19

## science faculty reps



### Jasmine Lee

#### Voice

It's that time of year again. What time? Election time! As a current Faculty Representative, one issue I've been looking into is safety during practicals. I've also been a representative with Chemistry, BoZo and BaMBi and I'm confident this experience will assist me in being a better representative for you.

If elected, I'll be someone you can come to with suggestions, ideas and complaints. If there's a problem you could come and tell me if you see me around uni or send me an e-mail or drop into the SA office. Even if the problem is not science related, I'd do my best to put you in contact with someone who could help.

Next year will see the introduction of the Faculty Representative Council which I hope to be involved with as I believe this will provide a more effective forum for Faculty Reps to VOICE concerns on Faculty issues.



### Sandra Coburn

#### Voice

Greetings! I'm running for

Science Faculty representative because I believe it's important that the interests of Science students are actively represented on the Faculty Representative Council. This is crucial in light of the proposed degree restructuring, which will potentially have a major impact on students.

I've been studying within the Science Faculty for almost three years and have acted as class representative for three units. The experience I've gained in those positions mean I'm well qualified to listen to, and act on student concerns.

As Faculty Representative, I'd consider it my job to make students aware of services provided by the SA and how to gain access to them. I believe that for the SA to operate effectively its members must be focused on the interests of the student body and not on party politics! A vote for VOICE will help ensure this. I look forward to representing you on the FRC.

### David Baker

#### Democrat Students' Club

NO STATEMENT SUBMITTED

## engineering and info tech faculty reps



### Arthur Gretton

#### Voice

Arthur Gretton is a fourth year engineering science student. He was a member of the Board of the Faculties 1995-1997. Blah blah. Also engineering rep at the SA for 1997. Blah blah blah. Member of a

number of clubs, including secretary of the Silicon Tool Society. Blah blah blah. Helped to argue against proposed HECS increases for combined

degree students due to course restructures. Helped introduce supplementary exams. Blah blah blah blah.

Adviser to President Clinton, Dalai Lama's personal masseur, poet, swordsman, adventurer, stunt double to Merryll Streep, concert pianist, best dressed man of 1989, topless gogo dancer and lone yachtsman, Arthur's hobbies include passive smoking, communicating with the dead and lying about his abilities. Blah?

Lives in Melba.

Blah blah blah...

### Ellen

### Levingstone

#### Voice

NO STATEMENT SUBMITTED

### Nigel Williams

#### Democrat Students' Club

NO STATEMENT SUBMITTED

### Alex Pollard

#### It's About Time

NO STATEMENT SUBMITTED

*The deadline for candidates' statements was 1pm Friday 5 September. Order of presentation of tickets within each position was drawn randomly. Candidates are listed in alphabetical order within each ticket. Statements were truncated at the specified word limit.*

## The Emperors New Clothes

Alcohol may give you confidence, but it Impairs your judgement!



You can do alot of things while you are under the influence of alcohol... The consequences may not be obvious... They can be both expensive and fatal and can affect those close to you and many other people!!!



Decide not to drink or not to drive!

## Need a place to live?

### Housing Online

- A list of accommodation from the private rental market, updated weekly by the ANU Housing Referral Service on the World Wide Web (accessible from the ANU Home Page) at <http://www.anu.edu.au/accom/accom.html>.
- Lists landlords' properties if they are available to students and one bus ride from ANU.
- Also includes sections for share accommodation wanted and available.

### Housing Referral Service

- Acts as a broker to assist students and staff to find private rental accommodation.
- Apply to the service and receive free advice and assistance negotiating with landlords and real estate agents.

### Contact Details

Contact the Housing Referral Service by phone on 6243 3185 (73 185 internal), fax on 6249 0737 (0737 internal), or by email to [accom.referral@anu.edu.au](mailto:accom.referral@anu.edu.au).

Brought to you by University Accommodation Services



Migrant Resource Centre  
of Canberra & Queanbeyan Inc.  
First floor, Griffin Centre, Bunda St, Canberra

### Wanted: Volunteer Tutors

Do you want to do something for the Canberra community and have an hour a week to spare? The Migrant Resource Centre urgently needs volunteer tutors to assist refugees and other migrants who need to improve their English for work, study or other reasons. We also need tutors to assist secondary school students in all subject areas, including maths, science, accounting etc.

Helping a person from a Non English Speaking Cultural background overcome the disadvantages of the language barrier, of disrupted education or career, and sometimes of illiteracy and innumeracy is a rewarding experience. The Migrant Resource Centre has three programs which urgently need volunteer tutors. Volunteers can choose between assisting with community adult English classes at the MRC, tutoring individual adult students in their homes, or tutoring in a homework and study skills program for migrant and refugee high school and college students. Volunteers are needed to work in all areas of Canberra. Tutoring is primarily one-on-one. Tutors should be enthusiastic but need not be experienced as some training and supervision is available.

Please phone Phillipa on 248 8577 for details.

# LICK IT UP dance



## Our Richard Marx in: Bigger than Jesus

Without opening his eyes Richard felt the pillow beside him. Bon, or 'naughty pants' as Richard had taken to calling him, was not there. Then he remembered. The shouting, the tears. Jon had threatened to smash Richard's authentic bottle of Elvis's sweat, but the last straw was when Richie had made good with his threat to sew up all the holes in Jovi's jeans. And now he was gone. "Love is a battlefield" Richie started to croon before breaking down. When his tears had dried up and he had had a fit of hiccuping, rage siezed him.

He began to tear down his posters off the wall, and sweep his music awards off the shelves. He yelled for assistance from the butler to overturn his bed. Under the bed there was a book. "Das Kapital" read Richard. "Where's that?" he wondered. He was siezed with intellectual curiosity and began to read. Our hero couldn't make out a lot of the words, even with the use of his bumper dictionary but luckily he possessed a photographic memory so understanding wasn't necessary.

Feeling very literary, he got on the horn. "Dweezil? Get the gang to my place. I'm gonna blow your minds." He said mysteriously, and, as was his wont, hung up without another word. Dweezil was suitably intrigued and spread the word among the rock community.

That night Marxie stood on the coffee table, yelling "The rock 'n' roller is alienated from his essential self!"

"Yeah!" called a few voices in reply from the ruff 'n' tuff gathering slumped around his living room. "Once the rock 'n' roller is confronted with his false consciousness, he will become the class of social change!"

"You know, Richie's right," said Fergal Sharkey, standing up. "We really should throw more parties, pep up our social lives." "I don't think you're quite grasping my argument," Richie said, disheartened. "I'm talking about revolution!"

"But Rich, man, if you go carrying pictures of Chairman Mao, you ain't gonna make it with anyone anyhow!" quoth David Lee Roth smugly

"Mmmmm." Marxie frowned intellectually and stroked his thigh in lieu of a beard. "I see your point."

In the morning, amongst the congealed spew and empty bottles, Richard rose. He stood up and looked around him. "I am the wind beneath their wings, and I will lead them to the Funky Town!" he vowed. A breeze blew through the window and lifted his hair off his neck. At the same time, a ray of sunlight turned it into a golden cloud.

The rocksters, awakening from their drunken stupor and dreams of winning 'Hot Metal's sexiest trousers' awards, squinted at Richie and took him for the messiah. Pat Benatar struggled to her feet and fell at Richard's, kissing the craggy, curry encrusted toenails. Richard looked down at her and placed his other foot upon her head. "Pat, come with me to the den of Enlightenment and I will light up your sacred space with my wand of courage."

"Right on!"

After this pivotal meeting began a flurry of interest in Richard's new wave of Marxism. With all the attention he almost forgot the bruise upon his heart. However, the memories of him and Jovi running naked through fields of daffodils and sharing milkshakes at the Copacabana were not totally erased by his newfound high-brow fame. Between interviews and mass rallies, he found solace in songwriting. "Alienated from Love", "The Accumulation of Capital Won't Bring You Back To Me" and "C'mon, Exploit Me" became anthems for his followers and anthems for a generation.

And what of that absent hunk who holds such a dear place in our idol's heart? After leaving Richard so hastily, he spent days on end sitting on his couch with a box of tissues, a box of chocolates and a Dolly magazine. But even articles like "How To Get Over Him" didn't ease his pain. Scared to turn on the television for fear of seeing the new messiah that he knew only as 'Spanky', he lived a life of almost complete seclusion, only venturing out to make the occasional movie to support his burgeoning film career.

—SARAH HUTCHINGS

## Your problems solved with Dean and Rob from the Curiosity Show



Dear Dean and Rob,

I've been hearing voices lately that have been suggesting I do things I don't feel comfortable doing! They come and go, but they always seem to be the same voices. They often suggest different things but the underlying message is always the same. What do you think is wrong with me?

Yours Sincerely,

Abigail Rymer (Arts 3)

Dear Abigail,

Your problem is you've been attending too many rallies at the ANU. The voices you are hearing are those pesky little buggers from the Socialist Workers Party, you know the

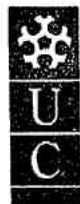
ones! They're the ones that seem to hijack every single rally and turn a worthy cause into a big whinge which ordinary students are deterred from attending! Are you are also experiencing feelings of guilt? If you are, it is because you don't wear home knit jumpers, have a batik shoulder bag or think occupying the AD Hope building will actually achieve anything, except appalling news coverage which will have people throughout Canberra, "tsk-tsking" thinking students are a pack of professional protesters that deserve to have their staff cut and their HECS abolished. (Gosh, I'm going to need one of Rob's special hot chocolates after that little outburst of political ranting!)

What we've cooked up here at the Q-show should fix up your little problem, and hopefully will end the suffering for a lot of other students. You will need: A heavy duty garbage bag; a hefty explanation as to why a socialist worker would want to help a university student study classical art; your own mind and last, a pleasant smile accompanied by a firm proud "No thanks!" when you are thrust a piece of crap on your way out of the Refectory.

So Abigail, if you want the voices to cease, follow these small steps. If they fail, write in to us again and we'll give you instructions on how to assemble some effective ear plugs made entirely out of your own ear wax. Until then, keep Exploring Your World.

Dean and Rob





# Certificate of Graduation

This certificate hereby declares that \_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_ afforded to graduate from the prestigious

former College of Advanced Education with a(n)  (please tick) honourable  (please tick) Communications  
 vocational diploma in  Sports Admin.  
 disposable  Nothing fruitful

to hang ostensibly in their  (please tick) office  (please tick) admire  
 hair salon in order that people  ignore it.  
 toilet  laugh at

Exchangeable for one free pinball game at Intensity

## That Wacky Web

This month's Wacky Web site is the homepage of a terrible Adelaide band who have got their best mate to write a hilarious piss take of ludicrously hubristic rock journalism, a la *Rolling Stone*.

Nuestro propio animal... It translates as 'an animal of our own', my Chilean friend Pedro tells me. What a line. The dichotomies of wildness and control, ownership and alienation, are brought into sharp relief in just five words, or three if you don't speak English properly. It's no small irony, then, that I could hear these words being spat out whenever I stumbled into a dark, beer-soaked den where Cerveza y Putas was trashing our musical landscape. Anarchists without a cause, satirists without a joke, angry without a purpose, Cerveza y Putas were just what we didn't need at a time we didn't need it, which is how they became the most important post(modern)-punk band in Australia. They're animals, no question, but can they ever truly be our own? No. Cerveza y Putas are ultimately too distant, too perverse, too other to ever be contained within its audience's expectations.

Perhaps it all started (as all these things do) with an undergraduate prank. Put a Spanish-speaking non-singer, a classically trained guitarist, a jazz drummer and a drug dealer holding a bass guitar onto stage, and watch it all implode. Musically, it was a farce. But those lucky enough to witness those formative gigs found that Cerveza y Putas (named by a friend of the band in memoriam to his parents who had died in a sidecar accident in 1976) had the chutzpah, the charisma, the sheer spunk, to tap into the stream of consciousness that has fuelled music based on sheer hate, from Woody Guthrie through the Stooges and early Split Enz, right to the present day.

Without wanting to overplay my own role in Cerveza's development I was there from the first days. Like Jon Landau stumbling across Bruce Springsteen in 1974, I knew that I was witnessing history. I couldn't back away from it even if I wanted to. I'll never forget the words spoken to me by bassist Dave Krantz at one of the band's embryonic gigs, while watching another band on the bill: "That bass player — y'know, he's a really good bass player. He can play really complex riffs without even looking at his bass. But if you look at him you can tell that he's a total tosser. And the band's really boring."

On stage, Cerveza were a pastiche of a pastiche. They taught us to forget everything we ever knew, but to act like we'd remembered it wrongly. Most bands welcome even the most inappropriate cover of their songs — mediocrity needs exposure — and yet I have witnessed innumerable songwriters break down and cry upon discovering that Cerveza is rehearsing a tune that they penned. Cerveza y Putas undermined everything that was good and noble in what they played — they brought out the Satan in the most angelic child. They weren't out to trash rock'n'roll by conquering the charts. Too smart and too cynical for that self-defeating game, they were out to destroy the bands that were conquering the charts. Their success in achieving this nihilist goal, within the limited period they were an effective band, chills me to this day. Cerveza y Putas were instrumental in the demise of Ratcat, The Hummingbirds, Lemonheads, Pixies, The Replacements and Hüsker Dü, but just how much damage they really did we may never know.

In the earliest days of the band, those who witnessed a Cerveza show frequently staggered from the room shocked and appalled, and even nausea was a common reaction. (Guitarist Paul Champion later admitted to me, "I'd be sick at those first Cerveza shows all the time. It was pretty rugged.") And yet the crowds kept coming back for more. The reason was David Penberthy. Penberthy, tagged as the band's 'Swarthy Immigrant Singing Sensation' by an early record company press release, combined Wildean bon mots with ESL non-sequiturs in a manner not seen since Joao Gilberto set himself on fire while trying to light his own flatulence onstage in Budapest in 1968.

Within months of Cerveza's debut, Penberthy had developed a cult of personality that threatened to tear the band apart. By June 1992, Penberthy was flooded with increasingly lucrative offers to launch a solo career. Smart enough to realise that going solo would have secured his financial future at the expense of his credibility and the privacy of his family, Penberthy came up with a typically left-of-centre plan to save the

band. He would stay with Cerveza only if it started writing its own songs. The group that had made itself infamous by taking other people's artworks and metaphorically defecating over them onstage, would now start creating its own.

Even when Cerveza became musically predictable (estimates vary between the second and the third song they wrote as a band), Penberthy's Man-Size charisma and scattergun wit ensured that they remained the most exciting live prospect in the southern hemisphere. Their domination of the poorest half of the world was confirmed during their wildly successful but controversy-studded tour of Nicaragua, Panama, Cuba and Venezuela in 1994. Once relevant officials had been bribed and charges dropped, Cerveza returned to the country more famous than ever, but perhaps the ructions they had endured in the most slimy and corrupt of all continents had robbed them of the fiery spirit of chaos that had fuelled their best work. Dave Krantz's drug problems had become increasingly pronounced. Paul Champion was working on a rock opera that left an ever-diminishing amount of time for the band, and drummer Ben Allen had not adjusted well to fame, using the notoriety of his name to run up at most bars in town limitless tabs that (due to some poor investment decisions) he had little hope of paying off.

They knew that if it was better to burn out than fade away, they'd have to go one better and blow up. They did so in 1995, playing a series of profoundly drunken but incendiary shows that would forever cement their reputation as Australia's greatest Spanish-language punk band. In the dying seconds of one of their dying shows, Penberthy is heard to shout joyously, apropos of nothing, "Up and down like a joggers' nipple." And so they had been. After a few short years together, Cerveza y Putas had indeed collapsed as everyone had expected them to do; but not before changing the course of contemporary music.

It wasn't surprising, given the superhuman force of the four personalities in the band, that there was seemingly little love lost once it was all over. The four members soon

moved to three different states, and media reports gleefully announced that no band member would acknowledge any other when passing in the street. Of course, for those on the inside (like myself), such reports were not only exaggerated, but actively engineered by the band in a Machiavellian stratagem to continue their notoriety even after death.

The chemistry was too strong to break forever, but how could Cerveza, which had formed its career on trashing clichés, get back together without falling into the hoariest cliché of them all — the Hits'n'Memories Reunion Tour? The answer, once again, lay in Penberthy's perverse mind. The band would play a single gig at a semi-disused digger pub next to a soul-crushing concrete shopping mall in a far-flung outer suburb of Canberra. The venue would have a maximum capacity of 120. No prior rehearsal would be allowed.

And so it shall be. The sheer contempt they have shown for the legions of fans who have waited patiently for their reformation, in this single gesture, both underlines their importance as a band and will further enshrine their place in musical history. For those who chart the social and artistic ebb and flow of our fragile culture, I would as soon miss it as I would be the A&R rep who dismissed the Velvet Underground & Nico as 'a bunch of tuneless droning — and what's with the stupid banana on the cover?'

To return to the original conundrum, Cerveza y Putas will not be our animals; but we can count ourselves lucky to be born at a time when we could witness their rutting.

—SIMON HEALY

*By a sheer miracle Cerveza y Putas did indeed play their now infamous gig in Belconnen — so it was written and so it was. The band changed both the musical and demographic landscape of Belconnen by bringing along not only half the yuppie population of Parliament House but everyone's favourite spoilt spokesperson for Generation X, the ever annoying Natasha Stott-Despoija. I'd just like to say thanks for being there for all us kids Natasha, I just feel so much more empowered knowing that you're on our side.*

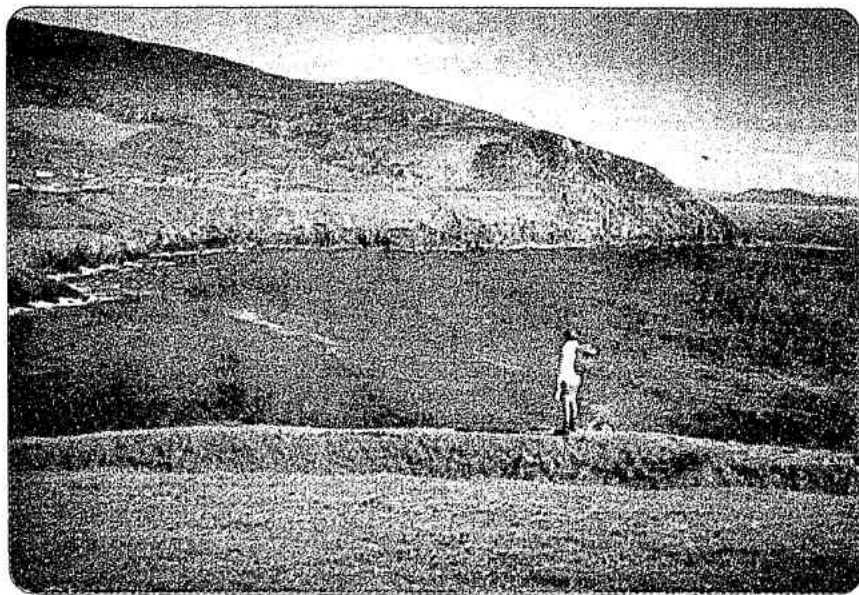
art space



Rachelle Baynie  
Untitled  
1997

# LIFESTYLE put your flags

travel



(above) Off the bike resting saddle sores in beautiful Ireland

## Two wheels good, four wheels bad

How far 'ave yer riddin that thing?' the fat Englishman sneered at me, pointing a derisive thumb at the bike between my legs. My bicycle must have looked a bit forlorn, laden down with four pannier bags, a sleeping bag, a small tent, and me perched on top. I smiled and replied that I had very much enjoyed cycling for six weeks through England, Wales, Ireland and Scotland, and that I was already planning my next cycling trip, this time through Vietnam. "Yer crazy, bloody crazy!" he muttered disdainfully. As if to emphasise the point he got into his little red Ford Escort and roared off, leaving me with a face full of fumes.

If he was right and I am actually crazy, then a considerable number of other people must be crazy too. Cycle touring has become increasingly popular over the past decade, so much so that for some people, like myself, it is now a preferred travelling option. So earlier this year, when I found myself facing a northern hemisphere summer break, I set my sights on some prime cycling country: Britain and Ireland.

One of the most obvious benefits of cycle touring — indeed one that the guy in the red Escort could have used — is that cycling makes you fit. It's true that the morning of the second day can be a particularly painful time, however after four or five days in the saddle you find yourself clicking over the kilometres without too much effort. Another plus is that you get to eat as much as you want, guilt free, and as for drinks I was prepared to believe in the "Guinness is Good for You, Gives You Strength" advertisements, sipping a daily pint.

The fact that you are outdoors most of the time, however, exposed to the elements, can work both ways. The cycle touring fun-o-me-

ter is, sadly, inextricably tied to weather conditions. It rains a lot in Ireland. When it first started to fall the green countryside was so picturesque I didn't want to be anywhere else, but when it continued non-stop for the next five days my enthusiasm inevitably wore off. I found myself having recurring fan-



(above) Live out your Freudian fantasies by riding your bike through long tunnels in the UK

tasies of fires, deserts and tumble driers. At times you are sustained solely by the good humour of your cycling companions and the prospect of a warm hostel at the end of the day.

But then the locals, in Ireland and Scotland at least, were just so friendly. More than once we were just cycling along in Ireland when a passing car would slow down, and the driver would wind down his window and start chatting with us. Many claimed to have relatives in Australia, usually in Perth. As friendly as they were, though, we soon discovered that locals were unable to estimate distances or gradients with any degree of accuracy. "Oh yes, it's just ten miles from here and the road is basically flat with a few undulations," one congenial Irishman assured us. Two hours and

three mountain ranges later we arrived at our destination, cursing our well-intentioned but hopelessly inaccurate guide.

One facet of cycle touring that may put some people off is bike maintenance and repairs. It needn't. Even the most sophisticated bicycles are relatively easy to maintain, and with basic training from a friend or bike club there are few problems that even the least mechanically minded person cannot fix. At one point my gear cable snapped, and so I patiently took the gear shifter apart piece by piece, replaced the cable, and then slowly put it back together again. It was only at the end of this very elaborate procedure that I discovered a much simpler way of replacing the cable without even disassembling the shifter, but I still felt justifiably proud.

Cycle touring really is an incomparable way of travelling. You go at a pace which lets you truly appreciate the places and people around you, so that you end up with a very strong sense of the country. It enables you to get off the beaten tourist track and explore far more interesting and worthwhile areas. You can't get a tour bus to take you up the Outer Hebrides islands off the west coast of Scotland; the best (and really only) way to do it is by bike. My friend in the red Escort might like to drive from one caravan park to another, setting up his television just outside his tent, but I would prefer any day to have my bike, a bowl of pasta, and, if possible, a jacket to keep the rain out.

—MICHAEL MATHIESON

*In May and June, Michael Mathieson and John Franklin cycled 2750 km through Britain and Ireland. Between them they had eleven punctures, two accidents and the odd verbal blue. Michael Mathieson can be contacted at m.mathieson@mail.utexas.edu*

foreign correspondent

tom mccawley  
m9105615@bohm.anu.edu.au  
csis, indonesia



## Mars in the tropics

Indonesia has a lingering image as a land of fertile rice fields, like a plane of flat mirrors covered in a film of grass. But as El-Nino changes what was once a fertile green into a dusty brown, farmers across central Java are once again talking about the weather. Not only Australian farmers are suffering with the latest drought. El-Nino has struck people in the rice basins across South East Asia where water is the stuff of life.

Gunung Kidul — meaning the southern coast in Javanese — is amongst the areas which have been worst hit. Decades of erosion, deforestation and overuse have given the region a Mars-like colour and sucked the soil dry. No big rivers are close by, so irrigation is difficult. Tens of millions of farmers grow rice when they can and supplement this with cassava and other crops. Sightings of Gunung Kidul from the air show a dull yellow grey sweeping the land. The checkerboard of green has faded into a dusty sweep of arid plates. Sun has parched the earth, baking the reddish dirt until it is covered in a spider web of cracks.

Local newspapers are filled with bleak reports such as 'water more valuable than gold.' One writer tells of 'chickens pecking at the stems of banana trees in search of the last few precious drops of water.'

The suffering has stopped short of the sort of misery that generates Band-Aid kind of publicity we saw in the 1980s. 'They are suffering,' says one TV journalist, 'but just not badly enough.' With more food, better roads, media attention famine seems unlikely. The warning signals are there; families selling assets such as livestock, jewellery and land. Many are migrating. But Indonesia is much richer than Africa, and there are government relief efforts afoot.

By and large, in most places, the invisible hand of capitalism is bringing water to the villages. Every day trucks rumble down the cobbled or dirt roads with huge containers of water. 5000 litres goes for between about \$15 to \$20 AUD. Basically, the water shortages are a huge pain in the ass and a financial calamity for many families. Women often have to walk for miles carrying litres of water for cooking, cleaning and drinking.

Gunung Kidul is hard-core bovine country. The white cows are useful creatures acting as plough, savings and god knows what else to local village boys. Suparman, the farmer was peacefully hoeing his field as the two freakish white men came down and sat beside him. The farmer I spoke to was surprisingly unfreaked out about our pale skin and enormous noses. With a mellowness that would take THC in the Uni bar he offers me a patch of his field to sit down on.

We visit one of his neighbours, and are shown around the dusty village full of bovines and smiling children. Public relations cameramen for World Vision might have been disappointed, the people we met were friendly and cheerful. "We are used to droughts", one sixty year old woman in a sarong says with a grin. "But walking for so many kilometres a day to get water is a pain."

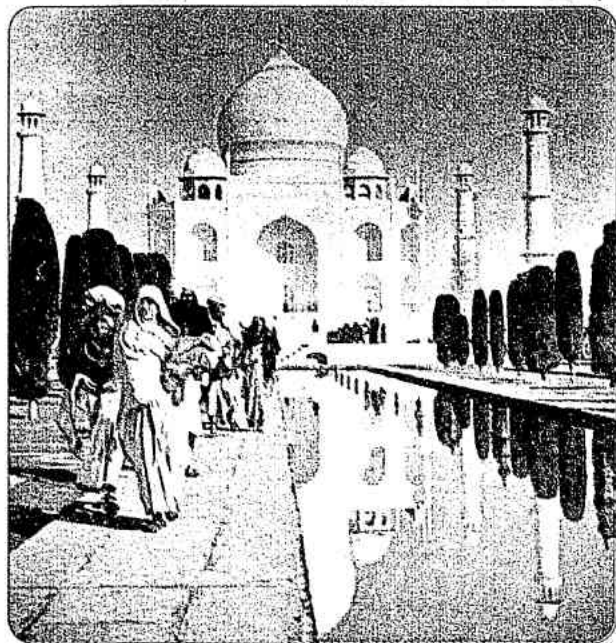
Village life, as earnest bead-wearing anthropology students point out is not static. No pie-eyed student can argue that a traditional rural life-style needs to be preserved. It is too late. Economic and ecological pressures have been ripping the areas for centuries. Once sultans collected feudal taxes and sent soldiers to harass the clusters of villagers. The Japanese armies destroyed much of the forests for a wood-hungry war machine. And now industrialisation leaves no corner of the island untouched.

No touchy-feely handicraft buying scheme will solve the problems of Gunung Kidul. They need investment to buy pumps to tap subterranean rivers. And PJ O' Rourke might say the only way to do this is to become richer, for more millionaires, and wait for the trickle-down effect — but this wouldn't help either as there are few opportunities to make money from digging wells in villages.

My friend Suparman the farmer, unaffected by such debates as he offered some tea from the pot he had brought from home. Vague on the subject of the drought, he was philosophical about the weather. Much better now than before he says. Much better. But did I want a bite of Cassava root? And how were the rice farmers in Australia? He asked me to send his regards.

—TOM MCCAWLEY

# food



(above) The Taj Mahal Indian Restaurant, Civic, boasts surroundings almost as spectacular as the grounds of the real Taj Mahal, India

## Taj Mahal Indian Restaurant

Address: 49 Northbourne Ave, Civic

Phone: 247 6528 or 0418 633 436 (mobile)

Opening hours:  
Mon-Friday: Lunch 12-3  
Dinner 6-11

Saturday: Dinner 6-12  
Sunday: Dinner 6-9

Average prices:  
entree: \$4.50  
main: \$13.00  
desserts all \$3.90  
side dishes: \$2.00-\$5.00

## eating out

# Curry next to Club X

The Taj Mahal Indian Restaurant is one of those inconspicuous places along Northbourne Avenue that you don't even notice until it is pointed out by some Canberra boffin. It's a shady little upstairs joint, that has the rather dubious privilege of being next door to Club X (one wonders how many of their customers have wandered in by mistake, not looking for delightful Indian cookery at all...).

This wonderful and busy restaurant obviously has a large and loyal clientele — on the wet and miserable Tuesday night that we wandered in, the place was full of people out for a few drinks and a damn good curry.

The Taj Mahal Restaurant has red carpets (some of which extend up the walls), and gives one that comfy warm return to the womb feeling (the same kind of feeling that you get at Tilley's). The air is sweet and aromatic, and there are strange Indian paintings on the walls, one of which depicted princely young men flying around like little fairies.

The restaurant is BYO for wine only, being fully licensed and selling a wide range of beers and spirits.

And just as well — there's nothing quite as good as the English tradition of a late night curry and lager.

We started out with an entree of vegetable samosas and pakoras (\$4.00) which were peas and potatoes and sliced vegetables in batter. The batter was light, tasty and sizzling hot, the vegetables still crisp and fresh, and all the better for a dip in spicy sauce (which was oddly

**"The Taj Mahal Restaurant has red carpets (some of which extend up the walls), and gives one that comfy warm return to the womb feeling."**

reminiscent of that old favourite, HP).

This was quickly followed by a smorgasbord of delights that made for a main course. Sweet fragrant rice was offset by a sour yoghurt cucumber dip (\$4.50); vegetable curry (\$12.00) and chicken vindaloo (\$13.50) could be piled onto pappadams (\$2.00) or hot naan bread (\$3.00); and there were delightful colourful side attractions in

the form of mango chutney (imported all the way from India and only \$1.80!) and a sweet tomato and onion side dish (\$4.50).

And finally, when we were just about ready to roll home, came a sweet sweet dessert in the form of Gulab Jamon (\$3.90), a syrupy mix of Indian homemade ice cream, koolfi, and deep fried balls of milk powder (which sounds very odd but was strangely satisfying), the whole lot swamped in cardamom flavoured syrup. The selection that we had was available as a set dinner, at \$19.90 per person, plus an extra \$2.00 for dessert.

Taj Mahal served up the best Indian curry I have had since I don't know when, and the staff were so polite and friendly and plain nice that it's impossible to find fault. It feels strange to give a rave review, but Northbourne Avenue's Taj Mahal Restaurant deserves it. It's well worth trying to find this place — just be warned: it's a busy place, and it might be worthwhile to reserve a table.

—PENELOPE SACHER



**handy household hint**  
When your roof leaks in stormy weather, plug it with Blu-tak and call your landlord immediately

# campus look



Charlie, a fourth year Arts/Law student wears a green neon wrap around sunglasses from a service station down the Coast; her zip-up two stripe top is from an op shop in Casino; her old Atelier jeans and most importantly, a Blue-Racer scooter, is a gift from her boyfriend. Catch her if you can!

## eating in

# Roll me, knead me, eat me

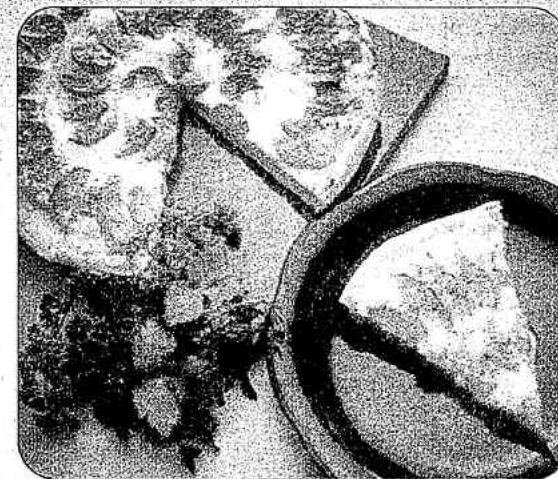
It is always handy to know how to whack up a good pizza dough. Here's how, thanks to Stephanie Alexander's fabulous book — *The Cook's Companion*.

### Ingredients:

- You will need:
- 400g. plain flour
- 1 tablespoon of dry instant yeast
- 1 cup lukewarm water
- 1 teaspoon salt
- olive oil

### Here's How:

1. Combine the salt, flour and yeast.
2. Mix tablespoon of olive oil with water, and add to dry ingredients.
3. Mix & knead to an elastic consistency — it will take around 10-15 minutes by hand. Remember to dust the kneading surface and your hands with flour.
4. Put dough in an bowl oiled with a tablespoon of olive oil and cover with glad wrap or with a tea towel. It should be in a draught free place.
5. Let the yeast do its work — the dough needs to rise to twice its original size. Takes 1.5-2 hours.
6. Knock back the dough (that means punch it) and gently fold in four. Then let it sit again,



(above) A poor imitation of how good your pizza will look

- unharmd and untouched, for 30-45 minutes.
7. Now the fun begins. With well oiled hands, pull, stretch and pat pizza dough to required shape on baking tray, making it as thin as you can. Let it recover for 5 minutes then go crazy with toppings (see below). Preheat oven to 220 degrees celsius.
8. Once pizza is topped, pop it into oven. It cooks quite quickly (15-25 minutes); give it 15-20 minutes before removing the baking tray to crisp the underside of the base for another 5-10 minutes.

### Some gourmet topping suggestions:

Stephanie suggests a lovely blue cheese, caramelised onion and rocket topping which may sound unusual but is very good. Try a traditional tomato base with olives and chargrilled red capsicum (easy to do under the griller — just coat them in an olive oil/ red wine vinegar/ garlic marinade and fire away). Another suggestion is a potato, rosemary and sea salt and pepper combo. Let your imagination run wild. Pizza is a great group house dining experience, good party food & this recipe works wonders.

**buying better**

# Condoms: more than contraception

In this age of safe sex, condoms are something every laddy and lassie ought to know something about. Although the packaging would suggest only women and men make love against dusty sunsets, what lies inside holds exciting possibilities for everyone.

There are flavoured condoms for tasty oral sex; coloured condoms to encourage illuminated foreplay; ribbed condoms 'for his/her pleasure'; and even ones with extra 'stimuli', otherwise known as 'french ticklers'.

However, from a quick survey of *au fait* men and women around the campus, it seems that those responsible for the purchase of condoms are reticent to venture farther afield than the common garden variety lubricated Ansell Chekmate condom. Well, sometimes they might go in for a condom with added safety features like spermicide.

Ansell are the safest condoms according to clinical tests — as one very virulent male pointed out, "you have to go with the brand names. They've got the testing down." Their standard condoms are the widest fit, which assures comfort. They also have the largest share of the market and the most variety — coloured, flared, extra strength, thin, etc. The Sexuality Department does not recommend thin, edible or flavoured con-

doms for penetrative sex. Edible condoms presumably dissolve in liquid, not so good in a wet sex situation; flavoured condoms are designed for oral sex; and thin condoms may not provide the protection you need.

It is good to remember too that once you've whacked on a condom, that is not the end of the protection story. You should think about using a new condom before penetrative sex, if you have been performing oral sex using a condom; if you are moving from anal penetration to vaginal or oral sex, change the condom.

Perhaps, most importantly, use *water based lubricant* whenever you use condoms. It prevents breakage, and it can be fun. Wet Stuff or the Four Seasons sachets available at most community outlets are good. I also discovered dental dams in my journeys — you can use a condom cut in half (which tastes absolutely revolting), or a specially designed stretchy piece of scented latex, over the vulva or the anus for oral stimulation. Pretty exciting!

So get into it, make rubber your erotic friend — it could mean the difference between a fun lifestyle that continues to be full of life, and one that is cut kind of short.

—WANDA NADER



(above) A fine collection of condoms, sitting pretty on a dental dam

**money**

Where to find a free condom/lube/dam	Safest brands according to clinical tests	Handy tips
AIDS Bus	Ansell are the safest according to tests; they are the largest fit	Always use water based lube — no massage oil/ baby oil/ vaseline
Students Association and Sexuality Department	Durex are not as reliable and have an unpleasant pink colour; they are a small fit	Always change condoms when switching from and from anal sex, oral sex or vaginal sex
AIDS Action Council (Westland House; near National Film & Sound Archives)	Thinner condoms are not the safest bet either, but are more 'sensitive'	Never use a condom more than once
Needle Exchange Program (East Row, Civic)	Flavoured and edible condoms are not recommended for penetrative sex	Rucking on a condom can be an exciting part of foreplay
Residential Colleges (senior residents; look in First Aid kits if stuck)		

## Cannabis: fun, but is it legal?

Marijuana, or mari-jew-ana (as Bronwyn Bishop would have it) is not such a big deal to most students. There is a common perception that the ACT's laws regarding drug use allow for open use and cultivation of marijuana. However, anyone who has been to the Civic Shopfront will have noticed the sign, 'Marijuana Infringements'. It seems that the law does have something to say on the issue.

In the ACT, cannabis or marijuana includes any flowering or fruiting top, leaf, seed, stalk or any other part of a cannabis plant. The cultivation, supply, usage or possession of cannabis is *illegal* in the ACT, and serious penalties may apply to such offences.

The relevant act, *Drugs of Dependence Act*, was amended in 1992 and this has caused widespread confusion. The law was changed to give police greater flexibility in dealing with drug offenders. Police can now issue 'Simple Cannabis Offence Notices' which means that the offender does not get a criminal record, but must pay a fine of \$100.

In what circumstances can the police issue a \$100 Simple Cannabis Offence Notice? They have the option of issuing a notice for the cultivation or participation in the cultivation of not more than five cannabis plants, for the possession of less than 25 grams of cannabis, or for the

personal use of cannabis. The police will confiscate the cannabis.

If you pay the penalty within 60 days, no further action will be taken against you and no criminal conviction is recorded. However, if you don't pay the fine, you may be summonsed to attend court or you may simply be arrested. In the event of going to court, a criminal conviction may be recorded.

It is of crucial importance to realise that the police do *not* have to issue you with a Simple Cannabis Offence Notice. They always have the option of commencing formal legal action against you immediately, in which case, you will be in a criminal court, facing the possibility of a criminal conviction and record.

The possession or manufacture of cannabis resin (hashish) or cannabis oil are treated far more seriously and the police do not have the option to issue a Simple Cannabis Offence Notice for these offences. Similarly, if you cultivate six or more cannabis plants you are up for a \$5000 fine or two years imprisonment, or both.

Further, there is a presumption that you intend to sell or supply the plants, for which the penalty is more serious. It is up to you to prove otherwise. The situation is similar in regard to possession. If you possess more than 25 grams you are up for \$5000 fine and/or two years imprisonment.

**"If you cultivate six or more cannabis plants you are up for a \$5000 fine or two years imprisonment, or both."**

## legal ease



(above) Although a home marijuana plantation could win you friends, it could also land you in jail

Selling cannabis to minors (under 18 years) carries heavier penalties.

Finally, in this long litany of offences, it is illegal to advertise or to allow advertisements that promote or encourage the use, sale or supply of cannabis.

The Drug Referral and Information Centre (35 East Row, Canberra) on 6248 7677 can provide more information about the status of drugs and the law, and they can help with dependency problems. They also have heaps of information on the social and physical effects of drug use.

—COMPILED BY JANE STRATTON WITH INFORMATION PROVIDED BY DRUG REFERRAL AND INFORMATION CENTRE

*Woroni does not intend this article to be understood as legal advice but as general information only.*

# CULTURE

she's so mean • t



## Rockin' in the ACT

Is Canberra really the cultural black hole that people think it is? Or are we forgetting that some of the greatest Australian Bands of the last ten years spent their formative years going to Hawker college, jamming in the Belco interchange, and hanging out at our favourite pubs? Canberra rock groupie ROLANDO FAIRVIEW reminisces about some of the Canberra greats, ponders the demise of the best of Canberra's seedy live venues, and looks the the future of rock in the National Capital.

There is an increasing trend, as mystifying as it is popular, for publicity flyers and posters for interstate bands playing in Canberra to breathlessly proclaim "Direct from Sydney!", or some such exclamation. It's as if we country bumpkins here in Canberra should be eternally grateful when we are blessed with a visit from some bland jangly guitar band who have deigned to make the three hour odyssey from the "Big Smoke". It's as if their presence were injecting a much needed dose of sophistication, so that we simple folk might be able to learn from their example of mediocrity.

Well if it's all the same to you DJ Tospot (Melbourne) or Derivative Bullshit (Sydney), we can probably get along without your street cred because Canberra is doing, and always has been doing, just fine thanks very much. (For an amusing insight into how the "Big Smoke" technique can go terribly wrong see the sidebar accompanying this article by Melbourne band The Fauves)

It's a little known fact that Canberra has produced some of the country's finest indi rock bands. The Falling Joys, The Hummingbirds, The Gadflies, Alchemist, Armoured Angel, Sidewinder, B(if)Tek, The Hammonds and The Plunderers are just a few of the names that garner both national and international recognition. Canberra has also, possibly due to

its proximity to Sydney, produced members for bands such as The Church, Godstar (Nic Dalton the lead singer and songwriter was the old bass player for the Lemonheads as well), Drop City, The Clouds, The Whitlams and international ambient dance legends Dead Can Dance. It can only be a testament to Canberra's often apathetic attitude therefore, that no one has ever bothered to chronicle the achievements of these groups.

The Falling Joys were one of the classic bands of the mid to late 80s, so too the Hummingbirds. The Falling Joys are a heavily underrated Australian band who, perhaps because of their somewhat icy "European" sound, were probably more appreciated in England. The Hummingbirds' album *Love Buzz* is one of the definitive guitar pop albums in Australian music history and deserved its critical and popular success.

But for sheer power of influence it must be Canberra's metal scene that takes the prize. Alchemist can count metal luminaries such as Young Gods, Sepultura and other giants of the metal scene amongst their fans and must surely be seen as one of the most comparatively successful bands in Australia. Virtually no one, outside of those who listen to metal or used to hang around the old Terro, has ever heard of Alchemist, but their

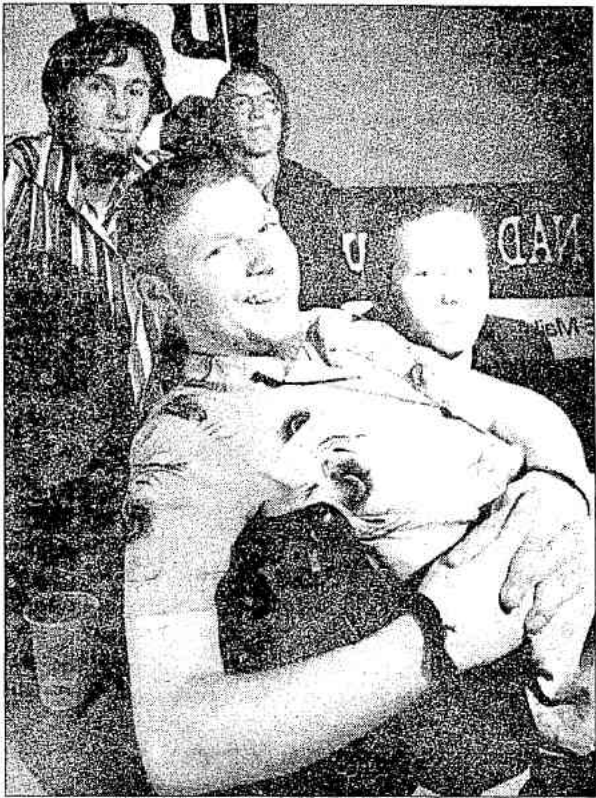
1991 demo, their second, sold 1500 copies upon its release. This figure is extraordinary for an ordinary old tape demo that is distributed by no other means than word of mouth. Most bands would be lucky to sell 100.

Whilst Alchemist are huge in the world of metal, Armoured Angel, as unlikely as it may sound, may be able to claim a position as Canberra's most influential band of all time. Their influence on the Scandinavian Death Metal scene is almost on a par with the kings of Death Metal Sadistic Execution, and they are worshipped by Satan's musical children across the world. Scandinavia I hear you ask? Don't laugh, Scandinavian countries are per capita probably the world's biggest fans of Death Metal and over there it's taken very, very seriously. So if your favourite little jangly guitared, long haired, alterna-hunk band can claim to have changed the musical face of several countries then feel free to fall over in hysterics, but if not, then shut up.

So why does Canberra have a tendency to sell short it's own product so often? Well Canberra sometimes does the best it can do. 2XX Community radio has recorded a number of the aforementioned bands and was responsible for many of them getting their first big break by producing their first demos in what is actually quite a good studio with high standards not immediately dis-







(above) Everyone knows at least one member of 78 Saab

cernible from its rather shabby appearance. The Uni Bar also provides a friendly venue for local talent to play live and hopefully create a following.

But there is little doubt that in the past few years there has been a noticeable hole in Canberra's live music scene, and it can probably be traced back to the demise of the excellent Asylum, without which Sidewinder would probably not be at all well known today; and the ugly but honest Terrace Bar. Both closed their doors, mostly as a direct result of the idiotic new liquor licensing laws that were implemented a few years back.

The closure of what were possibly Canberra's two main venues for live music cut the heart out of the high school and campus band scene (There was rumour that a member of Canberra novelty band Prick Harness was going to reopen the Asylum with money he was to receive from a compensation pay out, but it seems to have never come to fruition). The Gypsy, which opened a few years after The Terminus closed down, has done an excellent job in attempting to bring an extremely diverse variety of live music back to Canberra, but with basically it, the Civic Youth Cafe and the Uni Bar set up as the only specifically live music venues in Civic, virtually Canberra, things still look reasonably dire.

So who are the Canberra bands who soldier on, bringing the word of Capital Rock to the nation despite the ap-

parent adversities? Well everyone in the country has heard of Sidewinder now after the JJJ success of their single "Titanic Daze" and their thrilling cameo role in the "hit" Australian movie *Blackrock*. General consensus from those legion of Canberrans who followed them when they were at their peak however seems to be that they've gone off since leaving the land of the long wide road. People find that since the relocated to Sydney, the music has become somewhat bland and hurried in its conception. They're releasing a new album soon however so they may as yet have an opportunity to redeem themselves.

The John Reed Club and Velvetene are another two (ex)Canberra bands that are building a fervent following here and in Sydney. The John Reed Club especially have been receiving reviews in all music press that read like literary orgasm — with Drum Media going so far as to call them "the best unsigned band in Australia". 78 Saab have also relocated to Sydney after winning the national campus band competition and are moving down a road similar to the aforementioned groups.

For my money, however, the best current Canberra bands, the ones I would actually go out of my way to see, are those who insistently plug away in Canberra despite playing to crowds that vary from sell outs (Crumpet) to four or five people (the Bigots). One of the best unsung bands in Canberra are Butt-nugget. Butt-nugget have either been viewed as a dodgy novelty band or Hard Ons wannabes.

This couldn't be further from the truth because whilst they are pretty funny and have a total couldn't-give-a-shit job attitude, they are producing songs that are in the best tradition of Aussie pub punk, ala the Celibate Rifles, the Hard Ons, the Meanies, Frenzal Rhomb et. al.. Songs like the unbelievably catchy "Clit Sucker" and "Hey Baby" are no less than classics of a distinctly Aussie genre that is loved throughout Europe, the US and Japan. The Bigots are a similarly underrated band because not only are they great thrash punk but their line up is extremely innovative; a bass with two bass strings and three guitar strings, and a drum kit, nothing more.

Canberra is full of great bands. The easy going college system in the ACT encourages their growth and a sophisticated audience with access to good music stores that stock excellent alternative as well as mainstream music are just two of the reasons why we probably produce more, and better, bands than any other comparatively sized city. But I like to think that one of the reasons the ACT produces great bands is because there is an attitude in Canberra that you don't find anywhere else. Canberra people are the most cynical, the harshest critics and possibly due to the city's constant bagging in the press, the most jaded people in the whole country, and that's rock and roll attitude that money just can't buy.

★★★★

SPIRITECH

Alchemist

Shock Records



**S**piritech, the new album by Alchemist, is probably their best work yet. A friend of mine found it too "prog rock", too noodly. To a degree this is true. The songs have been taken to unprecedented lengths and the prominence of ambient and other electronic sounds has been increased, but this is what makes it so great.

Metal has always had an element of epic enormity in its construction and this licence to free reign on all instruments at once has often led to the horrors of Spinal Tap self-parody — but for real. This album is so seamless however that one barely notices that a song has just been going for eight minutes, and the band's use of keyboards and samples is never overstated or superfluous. This rigour may betray a band under a certain influence from their big fans, the legendary Swiss electronic industrial group, the Young Gods — who they supported on their recent national tour.

My only problem with Spiritech is, as on previous Alchemist albums, is the complete silliness of the lyrics. On previous albums, whilst they were always pretty dumb, the lyrics did occasionally manage to be quite poetic, and when they were dumb you couldn't really understand what they were anyway, because of lead singer Adam's "sold my soul to Satan and now I'm back from the grave" death-metal vocal style. The shouting's been toned down somewhat now so the lyrics for such songs as "Staying Concious" are now quite audible, eg. "Symbiosis, a two way process/people read their lives and then create their own psychosis". Metal lyrics have always been pretty bad but this is ridiculous.

Don't let bad lyrics worry you though because lyrics have never spoiled metal and besides, what other band could you possibly name who wear their Canberra allegiances so openly? With lines in their Thankyou list like "Thanks to all the Belco Northside Fuckers and Tuggers Southside Cunts" What more can I say? They remember where they came from.

—ROLANDO FAIRVIEW

## Canberra: the venue from hell

The Asylum, Canberra, Dec 93

We strode into town with the studied arrogance of the major label big boys that we are. "This little village isn't big enough for the two of us" we sneered at Sidewinder, local boys. "Support us and learn something", we smiled. "Maybe you too will one day be as important as us". Two hundred and fifty people paid to see Sidewinder that night. I say 'paid to see Sidewinder' because by the time we hit stage ten of them were left.

We started off well when Jack blew up his borrowed amp during the first song. He played the rest of the gig standing off the front of the stage, screaming at our mixer to turn him up and gaffer taping his head to the speaker stacks so as to hear himself.

We finished and loaded our gear down the stairs to our van. The Sidewinder boys, each one of them better looking than five hundred thousand ten-dollar notes packed into a casket woven out of Afghani buds and being carried out by sixteen of Hugh Hefner's house guests, were up the other end of the venue, surrounded by chicks. I thought I saw one of them smirk. Almost out the door, I fancied I heard a chuckle. Driving through Canberra's lonely streets I'm sure I heard a belly laugh. Let's face it — it was pretty funny.

—EXCERPT FROM SURED, THE FAUVES' OFFICIAL ROCK MAGAZINE

# reviews

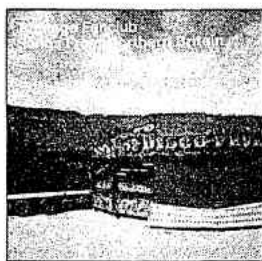
## music

★★★★

**SONGS FROM NORTHERN BRITAIN**

**Teenage Fanclub**

Creation / Sony



Here's the truth. A lot of people will find this album pretty dull. Truth be told it's unfashionable. It isn't going to be added to playlists by the dozen. Nor will Blake, Love, McGinley and Quinn make the front pages of tabloids around the world.

*Songs From Northern Britain* is the name of this album. If you check out the cover and the photos in the sleeve, you'll see Scotland, where the Fannies come from. But these are views of snow-capped mountains and forests and deserted roads. Big landscapes and big skies. This doesn't look like modern Britain at all. It looks more like Australia or the US. What the Fannies are doing on this album is distancing themselves from Britpop in no uncertain terms because Britpop and Britain just can't hold them.

It's an attempt at simplifying the music but also the lifestyle. On the first single Gerard Love asks "Here is a sunrise — ain't that enough?" On "Planets", Norman Blake gently contemplates a move away from the city, to slow down and strip away the inessential. The message here is to be happy with what you've got, and to find inner peace before you go about making all sorts of predictions and prescriptions for others.

Romance is essential in many of Norman Blake's songs. He claims "Without you, I can't feel my soul". How could you possibly refuse him? He's a modern Romantic poet, and unlike William Blake, he Rocks!

Teenage Fanclub always remind me of an incredibly cool slightly older brother (if I had one). He sends postcards from time to time and your parents tut-tut around the dinner table "I don't know what'll happen to that boy" but you always knew he had it sussed. Once every two years he comes home with stories to tell. You can't help smiling and you hope you're like that when you're his age.

Teenage Fanclub make no bones about their influences. They are unashamedly retro but unlike some bands they are aware of the responsibility that they carry with regard to the music itself as well as the philosophies of the people who inspired them. They are fitting torch bearers.

The harmonies lift you to their level. When the guitars jangle, the arpeggios glisten like stepping stones across an alpine stream.

What you get here is a dozen very good, very simple pop songs. Sure it's been done before but rarely better than this.

—NICK JEWLACHOW

★★★

**WHATEVER AND EVER AMEN**

**Ben Folds Five**

Sony



The first time I listened to this album I had just returned from an evening of fun at a recent Funky Acid Afro lounge, and as one might guess, I was one cone away from a decent state of annihilation. I put the C.D. into the stereo, pressed play, and liked what I heard. This didn't last long at all. I lunged from my friends couch onto the ground and head-butted the album cover into twenty three pieces, and focused on the stop button long enough for me to fumble the volume control to minimum. Before the end of the third song I had passed out graciously in a puddle of my own drool.

On my second listening, in a much saner mood, I actually began to appreciate the band for the tremendous amount of talent they possess, as well as the fact that they can write some excellent songs on just a piano, a bass and drums. The music is raw, live, and fun.

"One Angry Dwarf and 200 Solemn Faces" and "Fair", are the first two songs on the album, and the best. They show how talented the band can actually be, especially Ben Folds himself. The third song, "Brick" turned my head into one, and sometimes still does. "Song for the Dumped" and "Battle of Who Cares Less", are the only other saving graces for the album. The rest of the album shows glimpses of decency, but it tends to get overridden by soppy, incessant drool. In all I think these people should stop playing to the twelve year old market. Such a sad waste of talent.

—JEREMY RICHTER

★★★★

**IN YOUR BRIGHT RAY**

**Grant McLennan**

*Beggars Banquet*



I guess I'm relatively new to this whole music thing — seeing as I only got into it all obsessively at the beginning of the nineties, I'm usually left with a blank look on my face when people wax lyrical about how the Go-Betweens were the best Australian band ever. They were, unfortunately, a bit before my time. But forget all the hype and hoopla about the legend and the rumoured reformation, because ex-Go-Between Grant McLennan has a new solo album out, and it stands on its own as an absolute gem.

Recorded in December 1996, this record has a real summery feel to it, and provides a bit of sunlight in an otherwise grim Canberra winter. The songs are slight things, which sparkle and shine, even the more up-tempo tracks washing out of the speakers rather than slapping you in the face. Credit must be given to the musicians McLennan has gathered around himself, and which form a beautifully complementary group. The influence of guitarist/ vocalist/ producer/ engineer Wayne Connolly is unmistakable and cannot be underestimated — his soloing and back up vocals are relaxed and gorgeously understated, and the production is superbly crisp and clear.

But it's McLennan's songs that make the album such a success. Simple, affectionate and calm, they form the perfect summer evening soundtrack. Or early summer morning, for that matter. They cover a range of moods and feels, but could loosely be classified as love songs, in the sense that this is McLennan singing about the things he loves — the beach, the sea breeze, the faces in his suburb and his friends and family: *In the house, the smell of tulips and peppermint/ Cotton sheets, candle smoke and a mosquito net/ Making love, making waves and not making sense.*

There is a sense of grown-upness in these songs, with McLennan singing about the ongoing search for something to put an end to confusion, but with an air of growing contentment. These are the songs of a man pretty much at ease with himself and his surroundings. Panned in *The Canberra Times* as a mediocre pop offering, it's time people forgot about the past and the Go-Betweens and let McLennan and co. do their own thing in the present. Because their own thing is great.

—PAUL H

★★★★

**EVERGREEN**

**Echo and the Bunnymen**

London / PolyGram



Let's get a couple of things straight. First, I'm a Bunnymen fan of many years' standing. Second, I hate reformations.

Now, the review. *Evergreen*: it's a bold claim. The cover nods self-consciously to the past. It looks a lot like the first Bunnymen album, *Crocodiles*, which came out in 1980. Promises of a new beginning. So, does it measure up? Well, I like it but there's nothing here that really strikes at your core, nothing that makes the album essential.

Here's what I mean. One of the weakest things here is the single, "Nothing Lasts Forever". Frankly, it's a bit thin. Ian McCulloch demands "I want it now", but does it so insipidly and you're not inclined, on the basis of that alone, to give Mac the time of day. "Forgiven", the last track is a confessional with Mac now apparently willing to do whatever is necessary to make amends. Pity it's

such a dirge. Check out the keyboard on "It's My Time": dinky or what? Sometimes this can work well (e.g. Died Pretty's "Towers of Strength") but here it just fills a space that could easily have been left blank.

Still, there's a lot to like about *Evergreen*. The best moments come when Will Sergeant's guitar playing takes centre stage. Technically, he's nearly clueless but he is the consummate autodidact. He knows his instrument and can coax from it the most amazing noises. For instance, the weird noodlings on "I'll Fly Tonight", curious bits of space jetsam that you notice along the way. The start of "Altamont" towers impressively, recalling Sergeant's work on the much-underrated *Electrafixion* album.

"Just a Touch Away" might be the best thing on *Evergreen*. It's a postcard from a very dark place. Mac withdraws his claim for immortality "I don't want to live forever, live forever". And while Mac professes immortality, it's a subdued sort of claim as if Mac foresees the fall for which Oasis have set themselves.

The band chugs nicely with "Evergreen". Sergeant is again front and centre and your faith is restored.

Honest, I'm a fan. A big one. Echo & the Bunnymen are not as fresh as they once were. It's not surprising; they're no longer the unconquerable unit they appeared. Mac's acrimonious departure and Pete Dinklage's tragic death put paid to all that.

But, still, *Evergreen* is better than 70 per cent of everything else to come out this year.

—NICK JEWLACHOW

## books

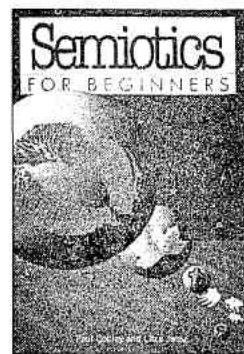
★★★★

**SEMIOTICS FOR BEGINNERS**

**Paul Cobley and Litza Jansz**

Icon

\$16.95



As the introduction to this book suggests, if you have been going to the right cocktail parties or tutorials, you will have no doubt come across the term semiotics. To quote Roy Slaven, it's a term that is "very now". Thinking that I knew at least a little bit about the subject, and never having read a *Something For Beginners* book before, I was a little skeptical as to how much I could learn from what is essentially philosophy in comic form. How wrong I was.

The "...For Beginners" genre/phenomenon now covers a huge range of topics (from Jung to the Mafia to Quantum theory to Buddha) and it is easy to see why these

books are so popular. *Semiotics For Beginners* is an intelligent, lucid and funny starting point, absolutely packed with information. Semiotics is the study of signs and how they work in society, and as such is a vast and at times hazy field of knowledge. But this book manages to tread carefully through the semiotics minefield, helpfully pointing out the important stuff and asking pertinent questions.

After a cursory glance at Greek philosophy, the book moves on to more modern thinking, covering in detail Ferdinand de Saussure and Charles Sanders Peirce, deemed the fathers of modern semiotics. It's here that you start to realise that this is no baby course — my knowledge of signifiers and signifieds was left in the dust on about page 17 (of 176!) and each little cartoon gives you the key to hours of further reading. The subsequent complicating of what is already a complicated topic is dealt with in a clear and readable way, the text and pictures never detracting or distracting too much from each other.

Criticisms? Well, an index would have been nice, but in this format perhaps not so vital, and the further reading lists were good enough to make up for it. This history of semiotics is very much the story of famous white men, but the text is also really good at telling you about the people you have never heard of who were equally important. It contextualises, both intellectually and politically, the biggies like Barthes, Derrida, Lacan and Levi-Strauss, and succinctly tells you what they're going on about.

This book is good at highlighting complexity rather than offering easy answers, and while it bandies about a few "isms", is always careful to alert the reader to the inherent dodginess of an "ism". *Semiotics For Beginners* asks awkward questions of the big thinkers it features and is never too keen to give simple answers. It is the perfect introduction to the field, both entertaining and enlightening, its benefits far outweighing its limitations.

—PAUL H

★★★

**GREAT APES**

**Will Self**

**Allen and Unwin**

**\$29.95**

**W**ill Self is the latest quirky popular writer from London, and he has produced something very odd in his latest novel *Great Apes*. The book is ostensibly a case study written by a psychiatrist chimpanzee who is well on his way to becoming a Great Ape, and hopes to seal his fate in the mind of the public by producing a novel based on the delusions of his patient, the artist Simon Dykes. For Dykes is a sick chimp indeed. Simply, he wakes up one morning in the arms of his consort with the odd delusion that he is, or was, human. The novel follows the psychiatrist's attempts to reconcile Dykes to his chimpness, while Dykes simultaneously seeks an end to his terrifying delusion that he is an ape, and a return to a human world.

This is not the first thought experiment of this type (Kafka's *Metamorphosis* springs to mind), but it is done with a nice twist

and an odd mixture of satire and toilet humour. *Great Apes* is a slightly unsettling novel too, in that for Simon Dykes (and the reader) there is no escape from this ape world, and the delusion that is ultimately uncovered in the novel is the delusion of once being human (this may sound ridiculous, but the ape world became so convincing during the course of the novel that I found myself checking every few minutes to make sure that I was still human and hairless). The novel becomes a comment on the human condition from a frighteningly objective point of view, that of a non human.

Having said that, this is a book that slips in and out of being fascinating, and is, at moments, a bit dull. And Will Self has a turn of mind that I personally cannot follow, and I felt like I was constantly missing his clever satirical political point. Still, this is a good read (and has a great front cover that will impress all your friends).

—PENELOPE SACHER

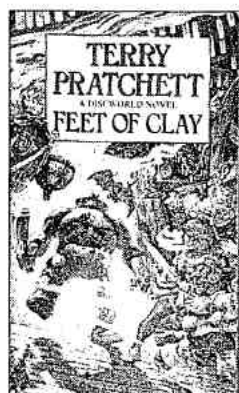
★★★★

**FEET OF CLAY**

**Terry Pratchett**

**Transworld Publishers**

**\$14.95**



**I**'ve long held the opinion that Terry Pratchett is immensely over-rated. Enormous praise is frequently assigned to Pratchett's sense of humour and marvellous lack of pretentiousness and how much better he is than Douglas Adams (with whom he shares a similar genre: the sci-fi/fantasy comedy). English reviewers have called him Britain's "greatest living novelist" and "the best humorous writer of the twentieth century". Bah! I've read the very early Pratchett and, more recently, a couple of later ones, and generally found them to be mildly amusing, slightly silly, and otherwise completely unremarkable. Although certainly (as the front page reviews will tell you), Pratchett's later novels are better than his earlier novels, generally I'd swap you ten Discworlds for any one of the *Hitch-Hikers* or *Dirk Gentlys*.

I was therefore surprised and irritated at enjoying *Feet of Clay* so much. *Feet of Clay* has all the immediately familiar Pratchett trademarks — humans, dwarfs, trolls and the Undead, all living side-by-side in the chaotic harmony which makes up the city of Ankh-Morpork, governed by the disturbingly composed, prescient Patrician. You get thugish trolls forming the Silicon Anti-Defamation League, and the dwarfs' Campaign for Equal Heights. You get a mystery involving an apparent assassination attempt on the Patrician that somehow involves the

Frankenstein-like golems that work throughout the city, and the re-appearance of the Ankh-Morpork Guard Watch, featuring Vimes, the six-foot adopted dwarf Carrot, the blonde werewolf with 'pre-lunar tension' Angua, and the troll Detritus. Along the way there's metaphors about human agency and the urge to create and stuff like that, but Pratchett, agreeably enough, knows that his first duty is to entertain. The 'message' of the novel, if we have to call it that, complements the action and humour, rather than obstructing it. And despite myself I really liked it.

Why? I don't think that *Feet of Clay* is much better than other Pratchett novels. Rather, in much the same way that egg-laying larvae of the genus *Dermaptera* squirm their way imperceptibly into the sleeping human ear, so too does Pratchett's gentle, universally accessible humour insinuate itself, novel by novel, into the reader's consciousness. And, in the revelatory manner that one wakes up howling and shrieking in pain as a disgusting insect covered in translucent afterbirth and earwax stickily explodes from the side of one's head, so too did I find myself, with a shock, regularly smothering giggles and occasionally bursting into laughter at *Feet of Clay*.

There are the same ingredients here, but for some reason a better tasting cake. Where Pratchett's good-natured fun just shat me off before, once you get used to it, it becomes quite appealing. So, I guess despite my introductory rant, I can recommend *Feet of Clay* to anyone who is after something funny, lightweight, and pretty readable. Although I still wouldn't go as far as the over-enthusiastic reviewers I quoted at the start, *Feet of Clay* is at least worth a look.

—TOM ROBINSON

★

**NO SHITTING IN THE TOILET**

**Peter Moore**

**Bantam**

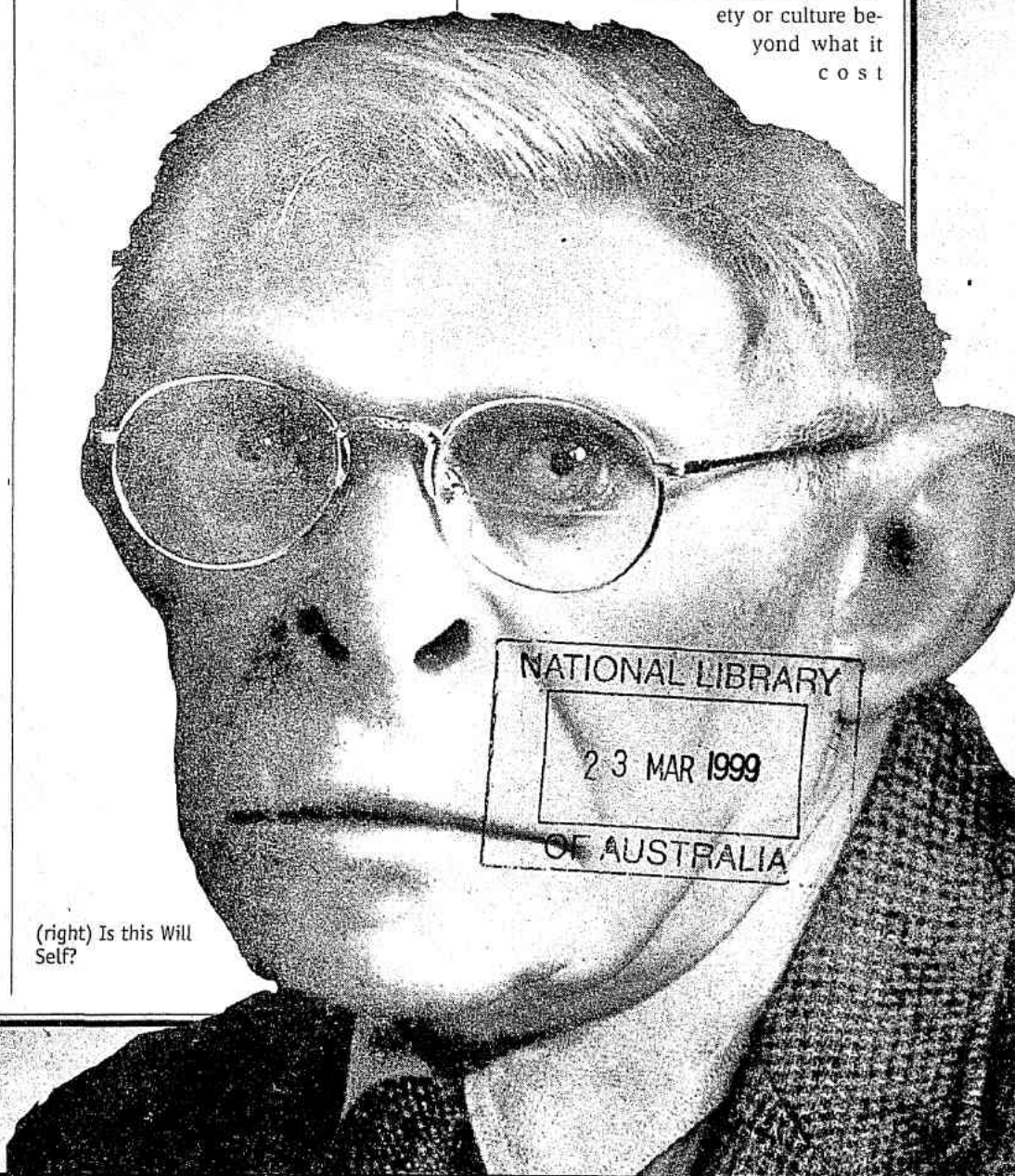
**\$16.95**



**I**f you've ever been on a backpacking holiday, you will instantly recognise the loser who wrote this book. He is invariably English and sits on the end of your hostel bed, ostensibly to discuss his zany travel experiences, but actually all he's interested in is talking about himself, to himself for as long as he will be feasibly allowed. "I've been travelling for about 120 years now actually" he intones in a manner that desperately cries out for a round of applause, "and I'd say that the best place I ever travelled to was (insert clichéd third world nation). Oh it was soooooo cheap!"

Yes not only can the professional travelling loser regale you with umpteen boring tales about how put upon they were during their week in Bunjumbura whilst the locals were being massacred, he can also relate, to the smallest detail, the exact cost of everything he ever bought. These guys have an amazing ability to have literally been to every country on earth in the most uncomfortable manner imaginable and yet still learn absolutely nothing about society or culture beyond what it

cost



(right) Is this Will Self?

them in Kenya to post back a wooden giraffe. This book did not make me laugh once, it's about as funny as the Murphy's Law rules people put on the back of their toilet doors — but less so. Get your laughing gear around some of these little pearls from the chapter on aeroplanes: "The food cart will arrive while you are at the toilet, blocking the path back to your seat"; "The only good-looking flight attendant will be serving on the opposite side of the plane to you"; "You will be seated next to the fattest, smelliest or most psychotic person on the plane"; "The toilet will be occupied when you really need to go". As Homer Simpson said "Ahhhh, it's funny because it's true." *No Shitting in the Toilet* is billed as "The travel guide for when you've really lost it". I would like to propose that it's the travel guide that makes you even angrier about the world wide paper shortage.

—BRENDAN SHANAHAN

## films

★★★

### FEVER PITCH

Directed by Amanda Posey

Screening at Centre Cinema

Rated M

Based on Nick Hornby's autobiography, *Fever Pitch* is set during the 1988/89 English soccer season. Meet Paul Ashworth (Colin Firth), thirty something English teacher and fa-

natical Arsenal fan. Paul meets hard faced bitch Sarah Hughes (Ruth Gemmel), another teacher who works at the same North London comprehensive school as Paul. You can guess the rest. Boy hates girl. Girl hates boy. Boy and girl have sex. Boy and girl fall in love. But there's one complication. Paul rides the same emotional rollercoaster as his football team. When Arsenal wins, Paul's a happy man. No relationship dramas in sight. When Arsenal lose, Paul's own life plunges into darkness. In this sense, *Fever Pitch* is more than a boy's film about footy. For the record, the soccer scenes are few and far between. In this sense, this film is about the difficulties encountered when someone is obsessed by something in their lives. Be that soccer, trainspotting, or even films. As director Amanda Posey explains, "*Fever Pitch* is fundamentally no more about football than *Hoop Dreams* is about basketball." Colin Firth discards his sex-on-a-stick Mr Darcy image from *Pride and Prejudice*, instead adopting a guise which wouldn't be out of place in *Men Behaving Badly*. Ruth Gemmel successfully plays the girlfriend who just cannot understand her lover's passion for a game with a few blokes kicking a pig skin around. Her apparent naivety highlights the differences between males and females in British culture. Arrrrhhhh, the old 'boys and their toys' misunderstanding. Anyway, you don't need any soccer qualifications to enjoy *Fever Pitch*. Just leave your relationship cynicism at the door, and bring a jumbo popcorn box of empathy.

—BEN PHELPS

★★★★

### BRASSED OFF

Directed by Mark Herman

Screening at Greater Union

Rated M

The promos for *Brassed Off* are calling it "the most enjoyable feel-good British movie since *Four Weddings and a Funeral*". I wonder if the reviewers saw the same film as I did. *Brassed Off* is moving and quite funny, but 'feel-good' is certainly not the description that springs to mind. The film is set in the Yorkshire coal-mining town of Grimley (and filmed in the real life town of Grimethorpe). Grimley's 'pit' — its coalmine — is under threat of closure, and the community are all feeling the tension of possible mass unemployment that would effectively destroy the town. The film focuses on the members of the Grimley Colliery Brass Band, which has been going almost as long as the town has. As Grimley's situation becomes steadily bleaker, the band offers one of the few rays of hope for the townspeople's desolated spirits.

Pete Postlethwaite plays Danny, the band's aging leader and driving force, whose dream is to get the band to make it all the way to the brass band championships in London. Stephan Tompkinson plays Phil, Danny's son, whose crumbling family life and poverty represents the decay that is slowly infecting the whole town. Both actors give brilliant performances: the film succeeds because of them. There is also a sweet love story between the young miner Andy



(above) Colin Firth enjoys getting into short shorts with little boys

(Ewan McGregor) and Gloria (Tara Fitzgerald), who has returned to the town after five years, and whose flugel-blowing skills means that she finds herself welcomed into the otherwise all-male band. But this romance is almost a sub-plot: the real focus of the film is the way that the townspeople cope with the tragedy that is befalling them, and the role that music can play in inspiring and redeeming the darkest situation.

While it occasionally threatens to veer off into cliché, *Brassed Off* is, on the whole, a very enjoyable film. The characters are likeable and the music is wonderful — but, if you're expecting *Four Weddings*, you'll be disappointed. While *Brassed Off* has some funny scenes, punctuating the comedy is a much more serious agenda, which makes the epithet 'feel-good' a little inappropriate. The film works, in fact, because of this underlying seriousness; without it, the villagers would have been caricatures, and the subject matter trivialised. As it is, *Brassed Off* is an entertaining and worthwhile comedy which doubles as a powerful indictment of the Tory government that destroyed so many of the real coal mines in the eighties and early nineties.

—TOM ROBINSON

★★

### CONSPIRACY THEORY

Directed by Richard Donner

Screening at Greater Union

Rated M

If there was an Academy Award for best opening credit sequence, *Conspiracy Theory* would be odds on favourite to win. This film begins brilliantly. The camera tracks along a rainy Manhattan street following a taxi. As the sleazy urban milieu flickers past, neon-lit film titles are reflected in the bonnet, windscreen and wheels of the taxi. These shots are intercut with glimpses of the taxi driver recklessly negotiating traffic whilst enthusiastically telling frightened passengers his most way out conspiracy theories. All this, set to a racy pink panther bass run and you've got an opening that would probably win Sydney's Tropicana short film festival. Don't be sucked in like I was though, cause this film runs out of steam about 10 minutes later.

The plot is same old same old. Jerry Fletcher (Mel Gibson) is an obsessive-com-

pulsive who publishes a conspiracy theory that turns out to be true. Jonas (Patrick Stewart) is a government baddie who wants to kill Jerry because of his knowledge. Alice Sutton (Julia Roberts) is a lawyer for the Justice Department who may or may not be in love with Jerry but feels inclined to save his life anyway. There are plenty of Black Thunders, tools in helicopters and SWAT Teams on speed, but nothing much that resembles a good story line.

Here's a hint. Most cinemas have a 15 minute refund policy. Buy a ticket, watch the brilliant opening and get your money back.

—JACKSON PELLOW

★★★

### AUSTIN POWERS: INTERNATIONAL MAN OF MYSTERY

Directed by Mike Myers

Screening at Greater Union

Rated M

*Austin Powers* is one of the two movies (along with the upcoming *Avengers* remake) revisiting the '60s spy genre. Powers is one of those aggressively stupid movies in the vein of the *Ace Ventura* films; probably the cleverest joke in the movie is that Michael York's character, a British spy who periodically brings the characters up-to-date, is named Basil Exposition. While definitely not in the same class as Carrey's movies, it has its moments; it's one of those movies that's much funnier a couple of hours after you've seen it and your brain has edited out all the boring parts. Mike Myers stars as Austin Powers, fashion photographer/gentleman spy in London's Carnaby St scene in 1967. His nemesis Dr Evil (Myers also) escapes Powers by having himself cryogenically frozen for 30 years. Powers also volunteers to be frozen so when Evil resurfaces, Powers can be thawed out to stop his plan for world domination. The film contains several very funny moments, mostly relying on toilet humour rather than Myers' fish-out-of-water scenario, although production design for the 60s scenes is spot on. Some of the jokes would be funnier if they weren't run into the ground, but lack of subtlety goes with the territory in this kind of movie. Myers as an actor is funnier than his script, especially as Dr Evil. However, Elizabeth Hurley is dead weight as Powers' love interest; she's not given many good lines and her scenes with Myers provide most of the movie's slow stretches.

—ROBIN SHORTT



(left) The irresistible Ewan McGregor with his big horn

# smash hits

## album

### Sugar

For the uninitiated, Bob Mould was a key member of Hüsker Dü, the Minneapolis pre-grunge trio who imploded in 1988 amid acrimony, heroin and the suicide of their manager. Without the Hüskers, the 90s would never have happened. Bob Mould emerged from the smoking wreck of the band and made a pair of solo albums. They were superb as psychic timepieces but sold bugger all.

Fast forward. Spring 1992 in Australia. At the end of a frigid Canberra winter the sun starts shining again and good news comes from the States. A dozen years of Republican Party rule ends. And Sugar's *Copper Blue* has landed here. Sugar, a new three-piece with Mould running the show. This fat, tinnitus-afflicted genius who chases out his personal demons in song.

*Copper Blue* was positively jaunty at times. What's going on here? Pop like a great big bubble of your favourite gum, crystal clear and delicate at moments like "If I Can't Change Your Mind". Fuzzy and twisted at others like "A Good Idea" where a relationship ends with a drowning. Then getting very serious again with "The Slim". Sugar were an Important Band. How many other bands can you name who deal with the issue of loved ones dying from AIDS?

After Hüsker Dü's absurdly intense work rate and acrimonious split, it would have been understandable if Mould never wanted to play music again, never mind form another band. But there you go. Yet Sugar could hardly have been less like Hüsker Dü. For a start, it was Mould's band. He wrote all the songs on *Copper Blue* and there were no conflicts about which songs to stick on the album, as there sometimes were with Grant Hart. The other guys in Sugar, David Barbe and Malcolm Travis, were long time rock pros. Hart, Mould and Greg Norton formed Hüsker Dü when they were still kids, still learning to play. Barbe and Travis knew all about basses and drums right from the word go. They had a power and a painstaking precision that the younger bands of the 90s could barely dream about.

And so it came to pass that after the soaring, sublime tower of "Helpless" they had nowhere else to go. Plaintive and perfect, there was no way they could better it. *Beaster*, a mini-album followed. *Copper Blue's* evil twin, it was noisy and opaque, a bit more like the sort of thing older Hüsker Dü fans might have expected of Mould. Newer fans scratched their heads. Then another Sugar album which had its moments but couldn't recapture the euphoria of *Copper Blue*. Then a compilation of B-sides and live stuff and Sugar dissolved amid widespread indifference.

Last year, a Bob Mould solo album barely made a ripple. Those who stumbled across it asked "Who's Bob Mould?"

Don't you know? He's the guy that saved Rock. Twice. And he might just do it again. In Bob we trust.

—NICK JEWELACHOW

## movie

### Wild At Heart

"This whole world is wild at heart and weird on top". And what better person to deliver this message than the master of the bizarre, David Lynch. Lynch takes us on a journey via the characters of Lula (Laura Dern) and Sailor Ripley (Nicolas Cage) through this "weird" world where certainty and "the normal" are non-existent. Lynch's love of the strange is with us at every turn as Sailor and Lula seek to escape the past. The story is simple; Sailor was involved in the murder of Lula's father organised by Lula's martini-guzzling-schizophrenic control freak of a mother. She attempts to keep them apart so that her secret will not be revealed. After spending time in prison for the violent killing of a hired assassin Sailor gets out, skips parole and with Lula he attempts to journey to California and freedom.

This road movie "a la Lynch" deals with freedom, fate, obsessions, the futility of life, sex and cigarettes. There is Lula's cousin Dale, who has a fetish for Santa Claus outfits and is terrified of aliens living in black gloves; there is Mr Raindeer who is surrounded by naked Geisha girls; there are the good and bad witches from *The Wizard of Oz*; there is Lula herself who could well be a disciple of William Reich's "worship of the orgasm school"; and Sailor who has a definite case of Elvis hero worship.

Through Lynch's bizarre prism the film deals with the problem of controlling our fate given the futility of life. It seems we can only do what Lula and Sailor have been doing all along, fight for our dreams and enjoy the road we travel. Perhaps Lynch is right, in this world amidst all its uncertainty, depravity and strangeness all we do have is love and maybe, just maybe a "good witch" directing our fate.

Lynch's view of the world is illuminated by his distortion and accentuation of colours in the cinematography, and his use of editing provides us with a multi-layered film where all we can do is sit back and enjoy the ride. His experimentation with the medium is evident. For him film is film, it is a place where realism should rarely intrude. He mixes many genres and no character is without their "weirdness". This film is classic Lynch and you'll either love it or hate it.

—NATHAN BACKHOUSE



(above) Nicholas Cage and Laura Dern star in this weird wild romance



(above, from left) Mike and Jane, Scott and Charlene, Henry and Lucy number two

## book

### Republican Party Reptile

This is a 1987 collection of "confessions, adventures, essays and (other) outrages" by American humorist PJ O'Rourke, a former editor of *National Lampoon* and current Foreign Affairs Desk Chief (having replaced Hunter S Thompson) of *Rolling Stone* magazine.

O'Rourke's more recent books have adopted a slightly more serious tone than his earlier ones, but "Republican Party Reptile" is still *National Lampoon*-esque (many of the pieces in this book originally appeared there). Not that there isn't serious stuff, as O'Rourke includes a piece he wrote ("Goons, Guns and Gold") covering the Philippines coup of 1986.

As the title suggests, O'Rourke is a conservative Republican. However, he is definitely not of the Buchanan camp — he was a committed hippy in the 1960s before embracing conservatism, and that sensibility keeps him from the excesses of, say, Rush Limbaugh.

But the main point of the book is humorous, at which it succeeds admirably, often being hilariously funny. One of the best pieces is "Just One of Those Days", a parody (or celebration, depending on your point of view) of both American machismo and life in New York ("A couple of the guys and I took our secretaries down to Clark's for a few drinks, raped the girls again, and then gut-shot one of the waiters and bet on how long it would take him to die"). Several of the funnier pieces are to do with cars, eg "How to Drive Fast on Drugs While Getting your Wing-Wang Squeezed and Not Spill Your Drink" and "High Speed Performance Characteristics of Pickup Trucks" ("Use one hand to firmly grasp the drip rail on the roof. This takes the place of shoulder harness, lap belt and air bag and lets you give the finger to people with anti-handgun bumper stickers on their cars"). Well worth a read.

—ROBIN SHORTT

## tv show

### Neighbours

This probably isn't an entirely appropriate choice of program for a retro page, seeing as *Neighbours* is still going strong, but I would like to argue that the *Neighbours* we see today is very different from the *Neighbours* that I grew up on, and watched (to my parents' dismay) every night, from the age of ten right up until I turned fifteen and Guy Pearce left the show.

Remember Scott and Charlene? — of course. But do you remember Joe and Kerrie?, or Des and Daphne (who was killed in a tragic car crash, in a car with Paul's wife Gail, who had hypnotherapy to remember the other car's licence plate number, and then had triplets through the IVF program before being written out of the show).

Simply, this was a show that had it all. There was the nerdy girl (Jane) who was given a makeover, took off her glasses and got the guy (Mike); there was the evolution of the character of Jim's young daughter, Lucy, who was played by a total of four different actresses over the years, and with each change seemed to age about ten years and four cup sizes; there was Jim himself, who we watched as, episode by episode, he lost his hair until finally there was an isolated little tuft of hair in the middle of his forehead. This was gripping drama.

But the thing that *Neighbours* did best was, without doubt, teenagers in love. Who will ever forget the magical wedding of Scott and Charlene (even the tragically deceased Princess Diana admitted to watching that episode). Mike and Jane were a great couple. And I personally was hooked on the on screen/off screen romance between Henry (Craig McLaughlan) and Bronwyn (Rachel Friend), although the two are now tragically divorced.

I sometimes still watch an episode for old times sake. And I'm still haunted at night by that addictive little theme tune.

—PENELOPE SACHER

## profile

### Fidler on the roof

In the Doug Anthony Allstars, Richard Fidler was always the quiet guitarist on the end. Now, he is a nationally respected media guru, currently gaining popularity as host of the ABC's *Race Around the World*. CORIN THROSBY had a brief but intimate chat with this ANU graduate about those wild times with the Allstars, his numerous multimedia projects, and his time in Canberra as a nerdy uni student.

**I wanted to start with something close to all our hearts: Canberra.**

I miss it.

**Do you? Really?**

Not really. No, I do miss it to some degree. I was in Canberra a couple of months ago with my wife and we had lovely time, reminisced at the ANU.

**How has the ANU changed since you came here?**

Well, you've kicked out all the scumbags and junkies. The Liberal students took over the place about 10 years ago and have completely destroyed it. Has the Uni bar got carpet in it?

**It does.**

You see, that's disgusting.

**I would have thought the Uni bar decor had changed very little in the past fifteen years.**

No it's changed completely. And you guys have HECS debts to pay off down the track — you're not learning the important things of life, like watching bands and getting pissed, taking lots of drugs and falling over.

**Is that what you did at uni?**

No, I just watched other people do it because I was too shy and nervous. I wasn't cool enough.

**What degree did you do?**

I did a BA. English in the AD Hope building, and political science, and history.

**Were you involved in any clubs or extra-curricular things?**

No, I was more interested in the band scene at the time, which was very vibrant.

**Were you part of that scene?**

Sort of. I used to play drums in some bands and guitar in some others. Then I started doing busking [with the Doug Anthony

Allstars], and the cabaret thing happened. There was a cabaret venue that started up in Narrabundah — which has probably long since gone — called 'Cafe Boom Boom', and we started gigging there.

**Did you have a favourite hang out in Canberra?**

There was the Uni bar which was a legendary place. It was pretty good and also pretty disgusting. And there was also a nightclub called 'Manhattan' in Civic, next to the Woodstock Pizza Bar. There was this skinhead called Chumly who used to stand out the front and collect money, and people were kind of scared of Chumly, so they always payed.

**There's been much mystery surrounding the formation of the Doug Anthony Allstars. How did you actually get together?**

If I told you that, I'd have to cut your tongue out. But we basically started busking around Petrie Plaza, just in front of the merry-go-round on Saturday.

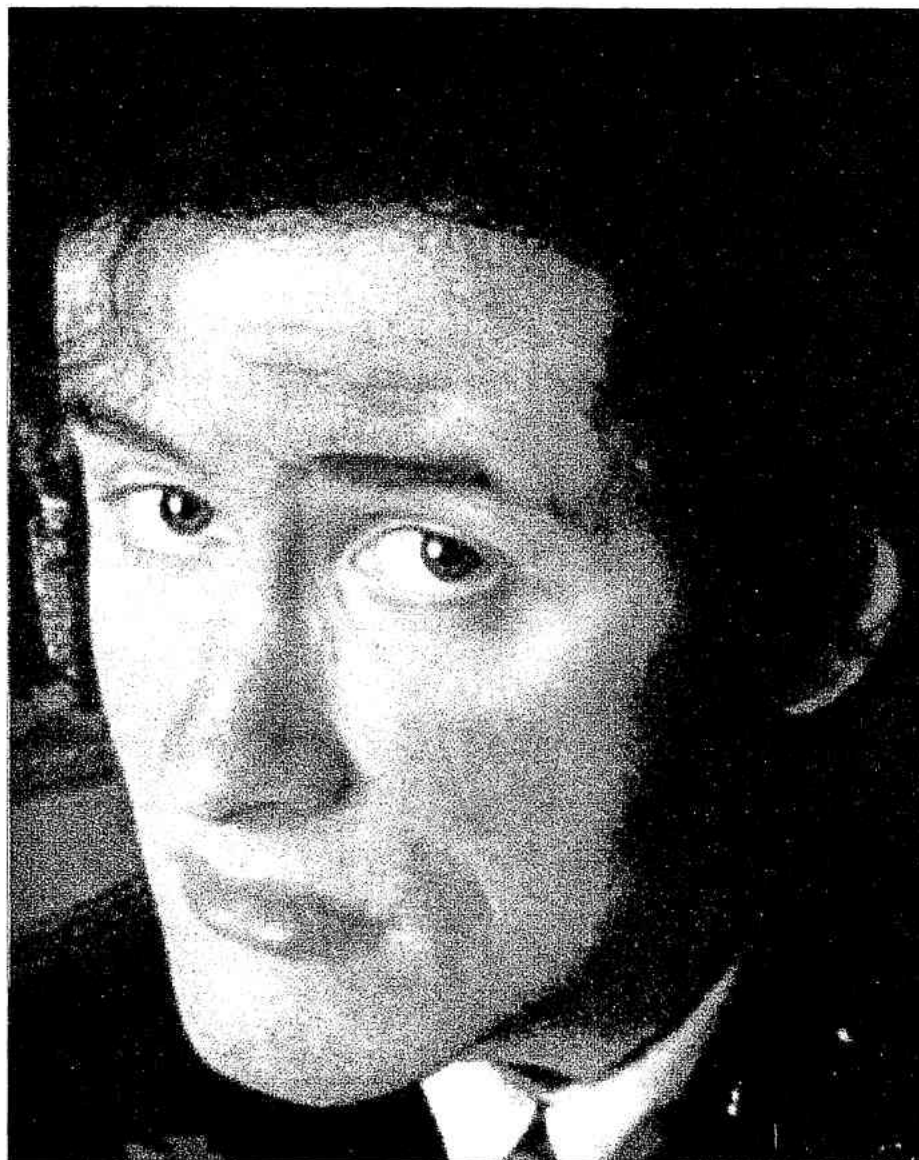
**Did you ever feel like the Allstars went too far in their aggressive style of comedy?**

The only problem might have been if we didn't push things far enough. Being aggressive is the only way you can get the attention of the Australian public. The Australian people are like donkeys, you need a 2 x 4 to get their attention. Being aggressive was a necessity.

**I remember I had a TV Week Pin-up of you guys, and saw you on shows like *Burkes' Backyard*... Was commercial success something you sought?**

I had no problems with commercial television, none of us did, but there was no way they would have let us do what we did on the ABC. We had fun playing with those

**"Being aggressive is the only way you can get the attention of the Australian public. The Australian people are like donkeys, you need a 2 by 4 to get their attention."**



(above) ANU graduate Richard Fidler: proving that people who hang out at the Uni bar can eventually go on to host their own TV show

commercial shows but the ABC was always the best venue for what we wanted to do.

**You weren't in the public eye as much after the Allstars broke up. What were you up to?**

I've been involved in interactive multimedia, spending most of my time doing that. I've always been involved in graphics and music, stuff other than comedy. International multimedia is a lovely way to incorporate all of that and do it in your own backyard on a computer.

I'm also a script writer, and I've got a project that's just about to be completed called *Real Wild Child* that's an interactive history of Australian rock n' roll — that's coming out in a couple of months. I've got another thing happening that's taking quite a while called *Radiant City*, which is like an interactive ghost story with lots of violence.

**So how did you become involved with *Race Around the World*?**

I was doing a show on the comedy channel. I'm a bit of a politics junkie and this show involved four people getting together and having an argument on a certain topic whether it be God, economic rationalism, sexual fetishism, pornography, and have a big shit fight about the whole thing. It's called *Mouthing Off*, and I'm still doing it

— we're about to do the third series. It was through that that I came to the attention of Paige Livingstone, the producer of *Race Around the World*, who's also buddies with my wife. She asked me to audition for the show and I thought what the hell? It's going to be one of the wildest shows on TV.

**Have you enjoyed doing it?**

Absolutely.

**Do you feel a bond with the contestants on the show?**

I don't want to get all soppy and say that I love them, and they're like my children, but I love them and they're like my children.

**Do you have a favourite film so far?**

There have been some really outstanding ones, a couple which haven't gone to air. A bit of a scoop for *Woroni* — John Safran streaks in a future episode. John Safran's films are fantastic. I really loved Kim Traill's story from Ethiopia, with three Ethiopian girls having a party and playing with her hair. I also loved Olivia's porn story.

**You are living proof that someone holding a degree from the ANU can achieve success. Do you have any final words of wisdom for the students of the ANU?**

Get out now. Drink more. Question authority. Sit up straight and clean your room. Stop having sex at Burton and Garran Hall.

richard fidler

Next issue:

Woroni's exclusive report of the Richard Gere interview that went horribly wrong. Our photographer tells how Icelandic singer Björk barged in and fulfilled her lifelong desire to punch Gere in the face. Apparently, she had to queue for over an hour. Miss it and miss out.



Footnotes

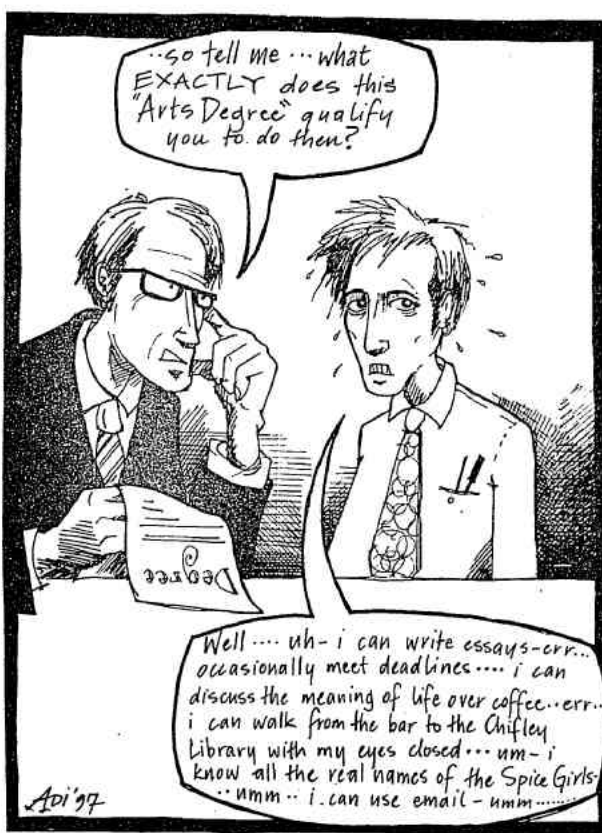
# Fish out of water

The thought just crossed my mind, as I sit here wreathed in angst and wet-sock pong, that my cushy existence as a student will very shortly end, and I will be thrust, quite reluctantly, into the alien, inhospitable and totally unforgiving Real World. This quite disturbing thought snuck into my conscious mind in the brief mental hiatus between similarly angst-ridden thoughts of dinner and sex (or lack of it), and led to a frantic episode of net-surf/dumping of all the job sites remotely connected with science journalism, numbering all of about two.

This threshold of life scares the living doodies out of me. I feel like a goldfish that has been given a motorbike and the fish equivalent of an Aqualung, and kicked out of the tank. Here is someone who has lived at home all her life and only just learnt to burn toast and dye an entire wash load pink, being expelled from the nurturing academic womb of university with my only armour a flimsy piece of paper telling the world I have more than the standard quota of brain cells. What a crock. University doesn't prepare you for the Real World; all it teaches you is the best way to scam people (ie. lecturers, deans, bank managers, parents) and not to pick your nose or scratch your itchy bottom in public (unless, of course, you're in the Uni Bar or the Vice-Chancellor's office). Maybe things aren't so grim for law students. After all, there's always the need for people to encourage and even hone your scamming abilities, and lawyers are very good at this, which is why they're also very rich.

I would like to propose a new system of tertiary education and subsequent employment selection criteria, based on who can demonstrate the most advanced ability to bullshit their way out of even the most adverse academic conundrum. We've all done it, and heard others proudly boasting of how they have 15 essays due on the same day, but have concocted and performed such an impressively heart-wrenching excuse that not only have they been given 5 year extensions on all essays, but they have also been promised HDs, tenured positions, and a flattering bust of themselves in Chifley Library. I believe

that this ability is the mark of a true genius of productivity, and rather than academic transcripts, employers should be presented with a chronology of assessment, illustrating when things were due, and when they were actually handed in.



Being a naive little private school girlie who still believes that the evil god of procrastinators will smite me into a sodden puddle if I hand essays in late, I have not yet mastered this illustrious art. My one attempt was something of an abject failure as I took the bull by his pendulous and probably rather tender testicles, and tried to get an alternative time for my final exam so I could

bask in the intellectual words of David Attenborough. At least I provided my lecturer with a brief moment of entertainment.

The moment of graduation seems to me to be one of the truly terrifying events in one's life, and I am constantly impressed by the multifarious ways in which my fellow students have managed to avoid it. There's the attractive but expensive option of repeatedly failing different units, and thus drawing a simple three-year labour into a prolonged breech-birth. This has the added advantage of exposing you to university social life for such a long period of time, that you become something of an institution in yourself. Everyone knows you, and the corner bench of Calypso acquires dimples in it that exactly match the configuration of the moles on your arse.

Alternatively, you could graciously accept the offer of an honours position, which entitles you to endless unconditional doses of sympathy from your ignorant undergraduate friends, and the right to lurk in the dark corners of Sullies with a permanent stressed look and graciously accept free coffee and doughnuts from the above-mentioned suckers.

Another great method of prolonging the academic labour is to do a PhD. I have come to the conclusion that this is, above all, the most cunning rort. I have known a number of Phuds (as I've just named them) who have found themselves in such tiresome locations as Santa Fe, or Heron Island, where they frolic with the native flora and fauna, free of bureaucratic buggery and stalking supervisors.

I have contemplated all of these options equally, but come to the conclusion that I should put off until tomorrow what I am equipped to suffer through today. I shall gallantly run the employment gauntlet — after all, should I fail in my bid to become R. Murdoch of the science set, I can always come back and be a mature age student.

—BIANCA NOGRADY

## classifieds

**Spanish tutor:** Native Spanish speaker, experience as a foreign language teacher, low rates. Call Claudia on 258 5308.

**Therapeutic massage:** Do you have a headache or sore muscles? Are you stressed? You need a therapeutic massage. \$25 for one hour, call Leandra on 288 8868.

**Typing:** Need help typing? I can help with assignments, theses, resumes, applications, reports, almost anything! Typing plus proofing, formatting and printing. Hard copy and/or disc (mac or IBM). Very reasonable student rates. Call Claire on 2485551.

**Yoga:** Canberra School of Art Lecture Theatre. Recommencing Tuesdays 12-1pm. Cost \$4. Please bring mat/blanket. Enquiries: Cecile Hopper 2573596.

**Meditation Sahaja Yoga:** Every Wednesday 12 noon. Off the lounge, university union above

the stream..No charge.

**Scholarship:** Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan Awards (UK). For graduates of high intellectual promise to undertake postgraduate study in the UK. Details may be obtained from the Research Scholarships Office, lower ground floor, A.D. Hope building, extension 2225. Closing date: Friday 10 October 1997.

**For Sale:** Peugeot 504, 1975. Good reliable car, selling due to an update. \$2000 or near offer. Please give our car a good home, it is a gorgeous pumpkin coloured Pug with loads of personality! Any questions, etc. phone Ray on 62815604 or Bec on 62810279.

**For Sale:** Drawing table (Bieffe) and apparatus (Zucor), 1.5 m X 1.0 m, good condition, \$350. 10 speed ladies bike, red, reasonable condition, \$55. Phone 62542367.



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